JPRS 76245

18 August 1980

Latin America Report

No. 2177

FBIS FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

NOTE

JPRS publications contain information primarily from foreign newspapers, periodicals and books, but also from news agency transmissions and broadcasts. Materials from foreign-language sources are translated; those from English-language sources are transcribed or reprinted, with the original phrasing and other characteristics retained.

Headlines, editorial reports, and material enclosed in brackets [] are supplied by JPRS. Processing indicators such as [Text] or [Excerpt] in the first line of each item, or following the last line of a brief, indicate how the original information was processed. Where no processing indicator is given, the information was summarized or extracted.

Unfamiliar names rendered phonetically or transliterated are enclosed in parentheses. Words or names preceded by a question mark and enclosed in parentheses were not clear in the original but have been supplied as appropriate in context. Other unattributed parenthetical notes within the body of an item originate with the source. Times within items are as given by source.

The contents of this publication in no way represent the policies, views or attitudes of the U.S. Government.

PROCUREMENT OF PUBLICATIONS

JPRS publications may be ordered from the National Technical Information Service, Springfield, Virginia 22161. In ordering, it is recommended that the JPRS number, title, date and author, if applicable, of publication be cited.

Current JPRS publications are announced in Government Reports Announcements issued semi-monthly by the National Technical Information Service, and are listed in the Monthly Catalog of U.S. Government Publications issued by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

Indexes to this report (by keyword, author, personal names, title and series) are available from Bell & Howell, Old Mansfield Road, Wooster, Ohio 44691.

Correspondence pertaining to matters other than procurement may be addressed to Joint Publications Research Service, 1000 North Glebe Road, Arlington, Virginia 22201.

JPRS 76245

18 August 1980

LATIN AMERICA REPORT

No. 2177

CONTENTS

INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

Briefs
Suriname-Venezuela Student Exchange 1

ARGENTINA

Reportage on Agricultural Prospects, Challenges
(Various sources, various dates) 2

Demand for Tractors Drops,
Carlos A. Campos Interview
Impossible To Replace Equipment,
Oscar Suarez Irigoyen Interview
Drop in Sales, Roberto Jose Russo Interview
Floods Delay Soil Cultivation,
Ruben H. Molfino Interview
Low Use of Fertilizers
New Economic Measures Analyzed
Serious Damage To Bulk Crops
Aguado Expresses Doubt
Foreign Farm Policies

Major Contribution of Private Grain Exporters Underlined
(CLARIN, 15 Jul 80) 20

Hundreds of Wheat-Laden Trucks Turned Back at Rosario Port
(CLARIN, 15 Jul 80) 23

Guevara: ELMA To Be Turned Over to Private Sector
(LA OPINION, 15 Jul 80) 24

Sorghum 1979-80 Crop Estimates Down 51.6 Percent
(LA NACION, 17 Jul 80) 26

Timetable for New Economic Measures Released
(LA NACION, 15 Jul 80) 27

Three New Oil Wells Begin Production
(LA NACION, 16 Jul 80) 29

BOLIVIA

Latin American Leaders' Reaction to Bolivian Developments
(Editorial Report) 31

BRAZIL

Goal of 60 Million Tons of Grain Set for 1980-81 Crop
(Jorge Rosa; O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO, 27 Jul 80) 33

July CFP Forecasts Mostly Unchanged; Editorial Comment
(O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO, 15, 16 Jul 80) 36

Beans Down, Cotton Up
Editorial Comment, Editorial

CHILE

Briefs
Peaceful Solution To Beagle Problem 39
New Santiago Garrison Commander 39
Press Reporting on Terrorism Restricted 39
Prisoners End Hunger Strike 40
Agricultural Production 40
Trade Figures 40
Indonesian Government Delegation 40
New Zealand Export Director 40
New Zealand Ambassador Approved 41
Interior Ministry Appointment 41
Spanish Union Leader Expelled 41
President of Journalists Association 41

COSTA RICA

Paper Comments on Corruption, Tensions in Academia, Labor
(Editorial; LA NACION, 3 Jul 80) 42

Carazo Scores Cuban Regime, Urges Technical Training
(Luis Fernandez Cordero; LA NACION, 28 Jun 80) 44

CUBA

Havana Television Crew 'Infiltrated' Peruvian Embassy
(Victor Martin Borrego; EL CAIMAN BARBUDO, Jun 80). 46

Antonio Maceo Emigre Youth Brigade Members Interviewed
(GRANMA, various dates) 51

'Secrets' of Soviet Community Success in Moa Nickel Areas
(Alberto Pozo; BOHEMIA, 27 Jun 80) 56

Female Streetcleaners Make Up Male Reluctance To Work
(Marilys Suarez; MUJERES, Jun 80) 64

'MUJERES' Interviews Iraqi Women's Federation President
(Manal Younes Interview; MUJERES, Jun 80) 67

Poor Sugar Harvests, Living Conditions in Las Tunas Province
(Andres Rodriguez; BOHEMIA, 27 Jun 80) 70

GUYANA

Briefs
Relations With SDAR 79

NICARAGUA

Ortega Interviewed on Country's Achievements
(Humberto Ortega Interview; EL DJEICH, May 80) 80

SURINAME

Briefs
Population Growth 85

BRIEFS

SURINAME-VENEZUELA STUDENT EXCHANGE--Paramaribo, (CANA)--Suriname has told Venezuela it is willing to begin implementing a student's exchange programme, it was officially announced here today. The Foreign Ministry said it had written the Venezuelan Foreign Ministry indicating Suriname's readiness to implement the programme which was initiated last year. No actual student exchange has as yet taken place. [Text] [Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 1 Aug 80 p 3 FL]

CSO: 3020

REPORTAGE ON AGRICULTURAL PROSPECTS, CHALLENGES

Demand for Tractors Drops

Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 28 Jun 80 p 8 (Rural Edition)

[Report on interview with Carlos A. Campos, the commercial director of a well-known marketing firm; date and place not given]

[Text] "It is obvious that the acquisition of mechanical power by the farmer, just as do the rest of the components of the technological package, stands in relation to the net income per farm product he receives, assuming the other production and financial factors remain more or less constant," says Carlos A. Campos.

"In an extreme situation in which income declines suddenly, or the other financial variables are seriously modified, or the producer may find himself forced to reduce his tractor purchases to a point below the replacement level of his equipment — if this situation should arise, as it has today, the tractor pool becomes outdated and farm production will soon exhibit signs of deterioration as a result of the lack of equipment needed, and then the consequences would be disastrous for a country that cannot avoid being dependent on the farm and livestock sector.

"In its rural sector, Argentina has suffered the consequences of the shock produced by the official economic policy applied in 1975, when measures that decieved the sector were announced. Following high expectations of a radical change in the direction farm policy would take, one which would benefit those who increased their production, there was an unusual and sudden rise in the volume of purchases in 1976 and 1977, beyond the effective purchasing power inferable from the income of farmers, who, believing in the promises that had been made, began to buy tractors and equipment on credit.

"During those years, the cost of local investments in technical equipment grew since short and medium-term interest rates on bank loans were in general favorable (and frequently very favorable) and duties were considerably increasing. In contrast, farm prices remained at a standstill or did not

increase significantly in terms of constant money, the only help in obtaining good yields being the weather factor which meant that, when there was no recurrence of good weather, harvests declined considerably.

"This complex picture resulted in an unusually high outlay of farmers' working capital, which was much diminished and left little chance for a speedy recovery in terms of the economic policy."

Shortage of Capital

"Since this capital plays an important role in investments, its shortage resulted in a sharply accentuated drop in the demand for farm tractors in 1978 and everything seems to point to the fact that this situation will last for some time, without our being able to estimate when a change in our present economic circumstances will occur.

"One inevitable consequence of this dramatic situation was the start of the most serious crisis our national tractor industry has ever known," Campos noted. "The most critical moment of the crisis occurred at the end of 1977 when the stock of the four Argentine factories and of their concessionaries endlessly disrupted the market in a way that until then had never occurred.

"With a totally recessional market, with no prospects for purchases and with an original factory stock of 3,200 tractors, the commercial state of affairs became the key element in preventing depletion of the stocks of the factories as well as of the concessionaries, since they found themselves distressed by pressing financial situations. What actually happened was not the implementation of a revolutionary movement toward a new sales policy, but that the way in which depletion was prevented was at the expense of a veritable auctioning off of stocks with the logical consequence of being incapable of properly controlling the market."

Drop in Price

"However, despite the relative drop in price of tractors, the demand was not revived, since the drop in demand was due to other causes, such as the need to obtain money at any price to be able to meet one's financial obligations. At that time, the tractor factories sustained tremendous losses.

"Worth citing as an example," Campos added, "is the evolution of sales by all the companies from 1976 through 1979 inclusive, which shows a total billing for 1979 that was 44.6 percent less than the average for the decade. In 1978 the situation was even worse and 1980 threatens to be the worst year on record since at least 1954, with a cautious estimate for sales of from 5,000 to 6,000 tractors divided up among the four traditional companies and importers incorporated into the market.

"Right from the first quarter of 1980, the sharply recessional nature of the situation was prominent, apparently marked by a drop of 42.4 percent in comparison with the same period in 1979."

Obsolescence of Tractors

"The conclusions we draw from this could not be more dramatic," Campos pointed out. "The market has dropped to its low point, producing obsolescence of the country's tractor pool. This factor will influence any attempt to really exploit our farm and livestock potential for the simple reason that the mechanical capacity for doing so will be lacking. All this has undoubtedly been generated by the low return the farm and livestock sector has obtained, accompanied by high interest rates, an increase in tax pressures, a shortage of working capital, an absence of suitable loans and unfair trade, which is conducive to competition from foreign makes.

"The introduction of a large number of tractor makes raises a big question as to the quality of the sparse investment engaged in by the farm sector, particularly as concerns the continued availability of service and parts. We must not forget," the subject of our interview went on, "that tractors are capital goods with a long use life (over 12 years) that require parts during that entire period of time. This situation reminds us of what happened to the items imported by the IAPI (Argentine Promotion and Trade Institute) during the postwar period, when many different makes of tractors were introduced which later lacked the service organization necessary to keep them running.

"The retention of tractor factories in Argentina implies the security of being able to supply, maintain and really improve the value of a pool with the special characteristics the one we are discussing has, whereas the dissolution of one of our most effective and least protected industries, the tractor industry, favors the advance of imported equipment, especially Brazilian-made, heavily subsidized and backed by export loans.

"In the final analysis," Campos concluded, "the picture could not be more discouraging, inasmuch as we have the impression that the nation is investing little, and poorly so, and eliminating an industry that should logically constitute one of the country's supporting pillars, as is the farm and livestock sector. This policy without a doubt contrasts with the one employed by countries which, at given times, went through similar situations (Brazil) and, whether we (Argentina) like it or not, if we go on as we are at present, it seems we will in the future be our neighboring country's best customer, as far as mechanized farming expenditures are concerned."

Impossible To Replace Equipment

Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 28 Jun 80 p 8 (Rural Edition)

[Report on interview with Oscar Suarez Irigoyen, president of the Argentine Chamber of Farm Equipment Manufacturers, and Dante Maiolo, manager of that organization; date and place not given]

[Text] "The recession in the farm equipment industry at the present time amounts to 50 percent," says Oscar Suarez Irigoyen, who with Dante Maiolo was interviewed by our representative.

"As regards tractors, we have recorded a decline of about 20 percent, which is the lowest in our history. A tendency toward paralysis of the industry's production has been practically confirmed inasmuch as we have observed a growing number of imports from different sources.

"Plow and harrow sales declined during the first third of the year by 10 percent in comparison with 1979. And this without taking into account the closing down of one of the industry's biggest factories, a fact that would undoubtedly visibly raise that figure," Suarez Irigoyen commented.

"Normally, by April from 65 to 70 percent of the production capacity of our factories is attained, since that coincides with the seasonal periods typical of major sales. However, this April the saturation volume for equipment was reached at about 55-60 percent and in some factories it was recorded at about 40-45 percent.

"These figures speak clearly for the equipment industry situation in rural areas since, as a natural result, if the factories do not sell their equipment the producers cannot readily replace their tools, which certainly is the case.

"But here is where we," Suarez Irigoyen emphasized, "angrily raise our voices in complaint, since not only are we confronted with the problems themselves of our current economy which, because of its features, prevents the farmer from renewing his equipment — by this we mean costly loans, crops that produce no profits and an unfavorable foreign exchange rate — but also in its turn with the struggle for survival we have to engage in against imported equipment, which we Argentines have no reason to envy since, where technology is concerned, the differences are minimal, if they exist at all, perhaps amounting to some detail already considered to be a luxury: air conditioning, an FM radio, accessories that modify the characteristics of the equipment we produce, a fact which then authorizes the importation of foreign equipment subject to minimal, or in some cases no, import duties.

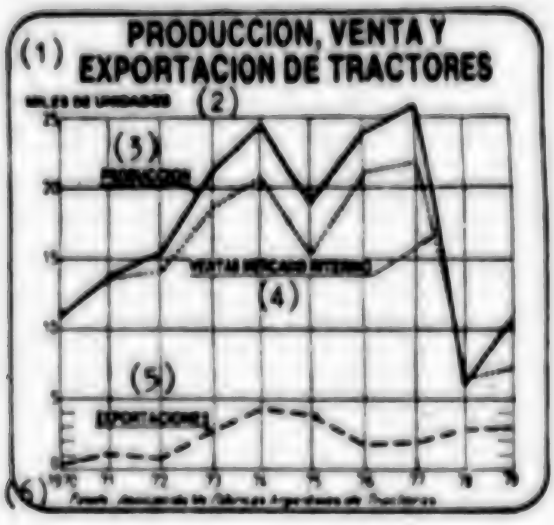
"Such imports, which enjoy the protection of a 'cheap' dollar, and letters of credit that allow the holder to take up to 180 days to pay the manufacturer what he owes him, with a minimal interest rate set in dollars, represent unfair competition with nationally manufactured products. Undoubtedly, the removal of protection for the Argentine industry has already had serious consequences, in terms not only of the companies, but also of labor, especially skilled labor, which requires time to be trained. And these consequences can be readily understood since, if the factory cuts down on production, it must do so with its labor force, which results in disorganization all along the line.

"Examples crop up every day," Suarez Irigoyen went on. "In 1979 there were eight self-propelled harvester factories in operation in the country and now only two are still in operation.

"Until last year, a relatively better situation in this branch was noted among the different manufacturers of farm equipment, but, instead of that, during the first few months of 1980 the situation has radically changed, with the market in an obvious decline which shows no signs of improvement.

"According to our figures, sales during the first third of the year have been 43 percent less than those recorded during the first third of last year. And as far as utilization of production capacity is concerned, we must admit that, in comparison with the month of April 1979, when this amounted to from 60 to 80 percent, it now comes to about 45 percent. And most unfortunate of all is the fact that this is not merely a fever that has reached its peak, but a depression that still persists, becoming more and more evident and acute without showing any sign of improvement, either in the short or the long run. The uncertainty is absolute. There is no foreseeable future prospect that offers any sign of hope and leads us to think that the industry may redirect its energies.

"Our demands are not heard," Suarez Irigoyen concluded. "When we appear at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, we expect to engage in a conciliatory dialogue, but all we get is a monologue we have already heard and, instead of talking with people who want to listen to our problems, we find ourselves talking to librettists who have no power to make decisions and who display a rigidity that is not consistent with the needs an official has to meet."



Key:

1. Tractor production, sales and exports.
2. Thousands of units.
3. Production.
4. Domestic market sales.
5. Exports.
6. Source: Association of Argentine Tractor Factories.

Drop in Sales

Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 20 Jun 80 p 9 (Rural Edition)

[Report on interview with Dr Roberto Jose Russo, general manager of the Association of Argentine Tractor Factories (APAT); date and place not given]

[Text] "From 1955, when Argentine tractor production was begun, up to the present time, 320,000 units have been manufactured in this country," says Dr Roberto Jose Russo.

"This production has meant a saving for the country equivalent to $8 billion, representing an amount equal to our national reserves today.

"Furthermore, it should be noted that during the period covered by this production we have exported products worth $606 million, an activity which has at present ceased to exist, given the conditions that now prevail in our market.

"The situation our current equipment pool finds itself in has reached alarming proportions, with a sizable drop in sales and production and with general stagnation throughout the industry.

"According to what figures on average domestic market sales show, over the past 10 years we have averaged over 15,000 units a year. At present, this average is far from being maintained since, even adding 1978 and 1979 sales together, we do not manage to attain that figure, in view of the fact that in 1978 sales totaled 6,309 units and last year 7,117, which makes a grand total of 13,426 tractors, representing 85 percent of the annual average.

"As a result of this decline," Russo went on, "the industry rapidly entered the horsepower crisis and, as a result of this situation, there can be no doubt that it will give rise to a major decline in our farm and livestock exports, a basic source for generating hard currency, which will naturally have an effect on the family pocketbook and produce a new inflationary spiral."

Effect on World Food Supply

"In November there will be an International Federation of Farm and Livestock Producers (FIPA) meeting in Argentina at which the 24th General Conference, which is held once every 18 months in different parts of the world, will be held.

"This organization is composed of representatives from over 50 countries whose objective is to discuss sector problems and which, on this new occasion, plans to consider, as one of the chief topics of discussion, the effect of energy (horsepower) on farming and the problems it could lead to in terms of the world food supply.

"The horsepower crisis and obsolescence of over 30 percent of the machines in operation at the present time are producing a deterioration of the tractor pool which demands our immediate and urgent attention," Russo added.

"The gravity of the problem has acquired aspects of great complexity in view of the fact that production factors are linked with others which directly affect production.

"Since farmers do not have the equipment capable of producing in terms of the necessary capacity, they are making use of less power per hectare, a fact that is reflected in a lower final yield. When less grain is produced, one of the sources of animal foods (poultry, pigs, milk) is reduced, leading to all sorts of problems. From this we infer," Dr Russo commented, "that the tractor has a direct effect on production and is capable of affecting even the most important aspects of same.

"Over the years, the amount of power used per hectare has been increased. Thus we note that, from an average power rating of 66 HP in 1976, we managed to obtain 87 HP in 1979.

"This increase is the result of new production techniques that permit the development of double crops, in addition to the need for reducing costs, all this the product of a change in attitude on the part of the farmer, not of any expansion of the amount of land that is planted, which in terms of almost exact figures has remained the same.

"Argentine firms are substituting imports for manufacture due to the fact that the import duty system now in effect is absolutely incongruous," Russo said, "since it allows people to import finished tractors against payment of import duties over 50 percent lower than those they have to pay for the parts and accessories that go into the assembly of a machine.

"The gravity of such a burning issue is demonstrated by the figures on tractor stocks, based on the assumption that there is an annual replacement need of about 20,000 units, a situation that is very far from the one that exists, as we can appreciate when we take into account the number of sales made over the past few years. And this is the case only when we maintain the current rate of mechanization of farming, which is on the order of 0.25 HP, while figures fluctuating between 0.33 and 0.37 HP have been attained, figures which are lower than those obtained by neighboring countries and ignoring rates as much as 10 times as high as these obtained by countries more highly developed agriculturally."

Finally, Russo said that the issue of imported tractors does not worry him so much because, while there are no buyers for domestic tractors, there are none for imported ones either, especially in a market of potential buyers who find themselves absolutely ruined, economically.

On the other hand, competition is relative since a producer who decides to face the problem of buying a piece of equipment carefully considers the

kind of service he will get later, easy access to spare parts and the fact that his purchase does not turn into a two-edged sword such that, when the time comes for using the equipment, he is not subjected to delays due to a lack of parts needed to get it going.

Floods Delay Soil Cultivation

Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 28 Jun 80 p 4 (Rural Edition)

[Report on interview with agricultural engineer Prof Ruben H. Molfino, head of the Edaphology Department and Laboratory of the Agronomy Faculty at the National University of La Plata; date and place not given]

[Text] The grave situation produced by the destructive advance of floodwaters, affecting an extensive area in the southeastern part of Buenos Aires Province is a topic of current concern for the farm and livestock sector of that region. For the purpose of obtaining appraisals of the consequences of these floods on the land involved, CLARIN (Rural Edition) has interviewed Prof Ruben H. Molfino.

First of all, Professor Molfino pointed out that the chief cause of these floods is precisely those people who, in building these drainage canals, have made the situation worse. He also stressed the fact that these drainage projects produce floods in winter and drought in summer because, since there is no water in reserve in the subsoil, it cannot be drawn to the surface through capillary action. At this point, he reminded us of how Florentino Ameghino put it: "Projects of controversy, not drainage."

In connection with the chief characteristics of this phenomenon, Molfino explained that "this year's advance of floodwaters is different from that of other years, like the one that occurred in 1973, inasmuch as it swept away not only the lowlands, like the so-called 'Dolores pot' and, generally speaking, by extension the Salado depression, but also the highlands (Olavarria, Azul, etc.), that is, the southern ranges of Ventania and Tandilia, which is precisely where the front and the mass of water originates."

With regard to exactly how much the lands in the Salado depression to the east of the province had suffered, he felt that "an appraisal could not yet be made, nor should it. Because it is a bit premature to estimate the damage and the proof that this is so is the fact that the rains are still coming down and they will undoubtedly tend to prolong the problem, at least in the lowlands. We have to be cautious in evaluating the damage," he explained, "so that, when the land is aired out with the advent of spring, we do not find ourselves in a situation that is not so bad after all. But obviously, the blow has been a severe one, like never before. Thus the highlands, the best soil in the country, have suffered significant damage."

Damaged Lands

Referring to particular to the extent of the damage, he made a distinction in which he pointed out that "in the highlands, especially those lands where the soil had been turned through plowing and harrowing for the purpose of preparing them for the planting of wheat suffered a stripping of the upper horizons of the humus-laden surface stratum, that is, erosion due to water action and a washing away of the soil.

"As for the lowlands," he noted, "they too are prone to erosion but, in their case, rather than the soil's being washed away, a pressing action is produced by the setting in motion of fine particles. When this is conducive to the problem of permeability, the formation of lagoons and the slow runoff to the sea. It is presumably in these lowlands that salinization is produced and I say presumably because this has not yet been observed. We have to wait for the waters to recede, for the land to be aired out and only then will we be able to note the salt deposits and the freatic layers laden with salts that have risen to the surface."

Immediate Steps for Recovery

Regarding the recovery of this soil and the steps to be taken, Professor Molfino felt that "restoration of the land from this presumed salinity, which is more of an alkalinity, would have to be attacked from several points of view. First of all," he said, "conventional cultivation with a disk plow and moldboard, that is, turning over the caked earth, would have to be stopped. We must replace it with vertical, so-called subsoil, scarified or chiseled cultivation. In other words, increase the earth's absorption capacity, thus improving drainage so that the excess salts and water can be eliminated.

"Secondly, we must remember that each kind of soil requires its own kind of machine. We must do away with all-purpose farm equipment. Each kind of equipment serves a particular kind of technical or cultivation situation. And as for tilling, we must use level curves, always plowing by cutting into the slope.

"Lastly, as far as crops are concerned, with saline-alkaline soil in wet weather we have to use suitable species and here the classic trilogy is in order: extensive slash and burn, high fescue grass, sweet clover and salt and water-resistant creeping clovers. I would ask," he noted, "farmers in the flooded areas to change their attitudes and as far as is possible adopt new ideas, new techniques and direct their attention to the care and conservation of our national resources: soil and water. I realize that this means a big economic effort, but it is time to begin once and for all and I now call on the members of the Rural Society, CARBAP [Confederation of Buenos Aires and the Pampa Rural Associations], CONINAGRO [Agricultural and Livestock Intercooperative Confederation] and Agrarian Federations to contribute to this conscientious effort."

Duration Determined

Later referring to the amount of time it would take for these lands to recover, Professor Molfino felt that "several things have to be considered and one of them is an appraisal of the damage, then comes how fast the process progresses, which is obviously a matter of concern since the soil has not been aired out, in addition to which there is the inexorable onset of winter.

"I think," he reflected, "that we are talking about no less than two or three spring seasons for recovery. And then we will implement Amaghino's ideas, completing them with a century of mechanization and technology."

And lastly, he laid emphasis on denying the truth of some reports that have begun to be circulated with regard to fertilizers, pointing out that "there are those who go about soothing themselves by saying that the problem of the flooded lands is going to be solved with a few sacks of fertilizer. I agree," he noted, "that we should fertilize the fields, but before that we have to aim at setting up a supporting base capable of receiving fertilizer, because, if we don't, we are burying fertility and money. First, we have to prepare the soil, so that it is in the proper condition to receive the machines and the seed, and then, of course, we will fertilize."

Low Use of Fertilizers

Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 3 Jul 80 p 16

[Text] During the 1977-1978 farm year, the country's total consumption of fertilizers came to 77,300 tons, which meant an average of 2.2 kg per cultivated hectare in comparison with 99.1 kg used during the same season in the United States and 83.7 kg used in Brazil, to cite but two examples on the continent.

These comparative figures reveal the Argentine farm sector's almost nonusage of fertilizers with a consequently low level of intensive farming and yields much lower than what they could achieve through the massive use of these chemical products.

Moreover, during the 1970-1971 farm year, they supposedly used about 87,000 tons of nitrogen, potassium and phosphate fertilizers, a figure implying an average of 2.6 kg per hectare, which also means that there was a decline in the use of these products during the first 8 years of the decade that has just ended.

Meanwhile, in Brazil the use of fertilizers rose from 29 kg per hectare in 1970-1971 to the above-cited 83.7 kg in 1977-1978, which meant a near trebling of the volumes used in the 1970's.

As for the 1978-1979 and 1979-1980 seasons, comprehensive reports on the volume of fertilizers used have not yet been published, although we can predict that it has increased since the real cost of these products has dropped, aided by the sharp decline in the foreign exchange rate, which no doubt encouraged the importing of potassium and phosphate fertilizers, which are not produced in this country.

Thus it is estimated that in 1979 some 110,000 tons of triple superphosphate and diamonic phosphate were imported, which means the consumption of phosphate fertilizers recorded during the above-mentioned 1977-1978 season more than tripled.

However, we should note that this sharp increase was aided by the big, gradual drop in the exchange rate, which significantly lowered the cost of imported products, with this situation creating the certain risk that, as soon as the dollar is revalidated, the volume of these imports will be reduced to former levels.

In addition to this, although the total consumption of fertilizers has doubled over the past 2 years, these figures probably are of little relevance since an average of 4.4 kg per hectare — which this doubling presupposes — is not significant enough to achieve a big increase in production in the farm and livestock sector.

Actually, the volumes of fertilizer per hectare recommended to be used in planting wheat or perennial fodder crops, for example, are in no case under 50 kg per hectare in order to obtain significant increases in yields.

A total consumption of fertilizers of about 200,000 tons a year, which is the figure that may have been recorded in 1979, would barely be enough to fertilize about 4 million hectares (assuming 50 kg per hectare are used), representing only less than 20 percent of the cultivated land in the country. At any rate, this volume is not high in comparison with that used annually in countries engaging in intensive farming — like the United States and France — nor is it in relation to what the experts recommend to obtain sizable and lasting results.

Imports and Prices

The production of fertilizers in Argentina is restricted to nitrogen derivatives like urea, since current production does not include any phosphorous or potassium derivatives.

This factor has heavily influenced the massive nonuse of fertilizers, since imported fertilizers are only used at times like now, when there has been a drop in the exchange rate and a resultant lowering of the cost of imports, with consumption returning to the same low levels when the situation changes.

In addition to this, the national production capacity of nitrogen fertilizers has also turned into a serious limitation on the intensive use of these derivatives.

Furthermore, the rise in consumption of fertilizers in 1979 was totally atypical in terms of the general trend of investments in that sector, which have been practically stagnating since 1977.

This can be explained as due to the influence the evolution of exchange parity exerts on import prices. In fact, in relation to rural producers' purchasing power, fertilizer prices have dropped from their levels in 1975-1976, a period of low farm and livestock prices, while the prices of the rest of the farm and livestock products — nationally produced — rose sharply.

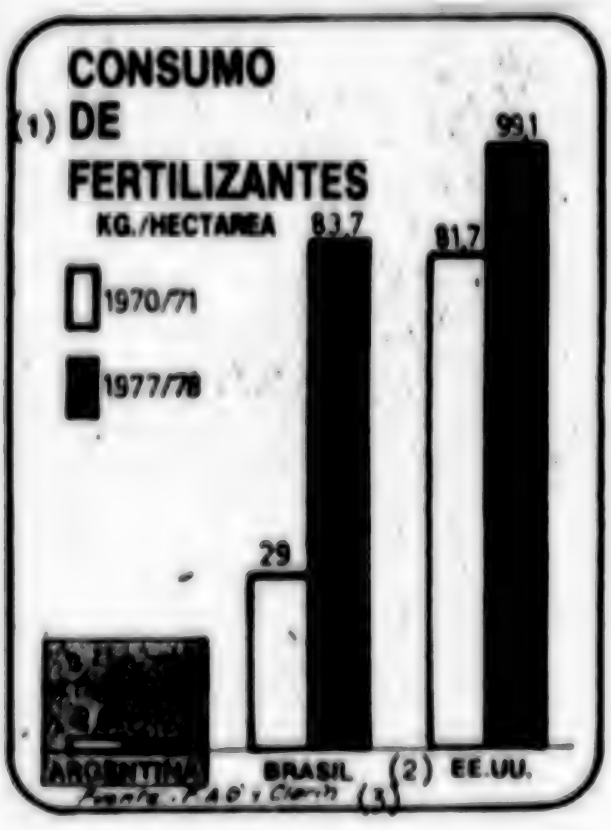
Thus, in 1975-1976 a soybean grower needed 3.21 tons of seed to buy a ton of diamonic phosphate as against the 2.11 tons needed in October 1979 during the planting season.

On the other hand, in October 1979 the same grower needed 263.66 tons to buy a harvester and 128.03 tons to buy a tractor as against 148.22 and 77.65 tons respectively needed during the 1975-1976 season, which reflects the different evolution of domestic fertilizer prices in comparison with the rest of the farm and livestock products.

Key:

1. Consumption of fertilizers in Argentina.
2. Thousands of tons.
3. Potassium.
4. Phosphates.
5. Nitrogen compounds.
6. Source: CLARIN and FAO.

The figures in this chart include nitrogen, potassium and phosphate fertilizers, with their use calculated in terms of land devoted to annual or permanent crops, according to the FAO (Statistical Yearbook).



Key:

1. Consumption of fertilizers in kilograms per hectare.
2. United States.
3. Source: FAO and CLARIN.

New Economic Measures Analyzed

Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 12 Jul 80 Sec 3 p 2

[Text] In this edition of our newspaper, through their top leaders, we give the points of view of the chief farm and livestock producers organizations on the measures announced Thursday by the Ministry of Economy to overcome the difficulties encountered in the farm and livestock sector as well as in trade and industry. We will therefore report here on the repercussion the official sector expects these measures to produce and will do so in terms of the opinions of authorized economic sector spokesmen.

First, in order to tackle the question, we have to make a distinction, as Dr Martinez de Hoz did in his speech, and focus separately on the tax, import duty and financial aspects of the issue.

From the standpoint of taxes, our analysis must cover three important domains of the farm and livestock sector: the farm economy, whose prices are fundamentally determined by the foreign sector; the meat economy, whose prices at times depend on the domestic sector and at others on the foreign sector; and finally, other economies such as the milk economy, whose prices are determined by the domestic sector.

The measures announced by the Ministry of Economy will immediately result in a net increase of 10 percent in producer income in those economies whose prices are determined by the foreign sector, that is, by eliminating the 4-percent farm and livestock production tax and a number of other minor tax burdens on exports, like the funds for the National Grain Board and for the INTA [National Institute of Agricultural and Livestock Technology], the record tax and others, a total saving equivalent to 10 percent of the FOB export price will be constructed. By replacing these taxes with the VAT and by not subjecting exports to the latter — the producer will not pay a VAT on the products he exports — the producer will receive a 10-percent increase in his net income.

The doubts we raised, to the effect that if at harvest time, as a result of there being no change in foreign exchange regulations, the discrepancy between domestic and foreign prices is maintained and should absorb this 10 percent, are practically obviated by the confidence there is in the fact that the measures announced will also aid in reducing inflation and therefore produce the expected convergence of domestic and foreign prices.

On the other hand, the concern as to whether general application of the VAT might produce a rise in inflation which would have a repercussion on the farm and livestock sector is unjustified since, while this tax will be added to prices, the increase in the automatic tax exemption provided for investments will compensate for this as regards farm and livestock products. In the case of big investments, like those made for tractors, equipment and harvesters, the tax exemption is expected to compensate for the effect of the VAT.

As for the second farm and livestock economy sector, the meat economy, approximately 7 percent of its taxes will be eliminated. In this case, we must take into account the flexibility of the demand, that is, the fluctuation that may be recorded in the face of a rise in price. In the case of meat, the demand in this country is inflexible and rises in price are not reflected in a corresponding drop in demand. Consequently, if the price were determined by the domestic market, approximately half the increase generated by the VAT would be passed on to the consumer and the other half to the producer. To gauge this increase, we have to wait until VAT rates are permanently set, which will be done when taxes for 1981 are calculated, but in any event it is estimated that, through substitution of the VAT for the number of minor taxes we have mentioned, the producer should be left with a net [increase in] income of from 2.5 to 3 percent.

If, on the other hand, the price of meat were determined by the foreign market, which has been the case on other occasions, the VAT would have no effect and the producer would increase his income by about 7 percent.

The case of milk is similar to that of meat when the price is determined by the domestic sector. Since the demand for milk is relatively inflexible, the consumer will absorb a major portion of the increase obtained from application of the VAT.

As far as changes in import duties are concerned, these are considered to be a fundamental aspect of the measures because they will be aimed at the other side of production, no longer at income, but at expenditures. It is felt that, in having allowed for a maximum import duty of only 20 percent, a significant contribution toward reduction of the cost of sector expenditures will be made. The elimination of all taxes supplementary to import duties in excess of 55 percent of the import duty, which means a sizable reduction that will benefit farm and livestock sector products, is also felt to be an important measure.

Another measure that is felt to be important is the elimination of restrictions on the admission of foreign capital. In a country like ours, where officialdom has not always earned the confidence of the business sector because of the instability of many of its decisions, it was hard to obtain loans with terms longer than 1 year. In eliminating the maximum limit on terms and allowing businesses to take out short-term loans for 6 or 3 months, the possibility now, for example, of applying for a loan to be paid off when the crop is harvested at the end of the year becomes a reality. The possibility of taking out dollar loans will, moreover, involve a big reduction in the financial cost that ought to result in a drop in the current interest rate.

In rural areas, the reduction in import duties on utility vehicles, an important item, is also expected to have a positive effect, basically on small farms. And finally, it is also estimated that elimination of the employer's contribution, amounting to 15 percent of salaries and set aside

for pensions, and the 5 percent turned over to the FONAVI [National Housing Fund] will also represent significantly valuable contributions in those regional economy areas where labor is intensively employed.

As we noted at the beginning, what we have expressed is the official view of the effect the measures that have been announced will have on the farm and livestock sector, according to statements made by various sources associated with the economic team.

Serious Damage to Bulk Crops

Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 2 Jul 80 p 15

[Text] In the speech he made during the opening ceremony of the 20th anniversary celebration of the Argentine Association of Regional Syndicates for Experimental Farming (AACREA), Secretary of Agriculture and Livestock Jorge Zorreguieta estimated that the recent floods in Buenos Aires Province have caused bulk crop (essentially corn, sorghum soybeans and sunflower seeds) losses "amounting to approximately $1 billion, a sum farmers will not receive to meet their costs and taxes."

He also indicated that "the government is aware of the farm and livestock sector's concern over the yield and the prices they get for their products," adding that "we must be objective and realize that this situation is not unique to Argentina. Throughout the world, we are witness to the same process, the result of the constant rise in costs due to the energy crisis which is affecting the entire world economy."

The president of the organization, Miguel Moneta, surveyed the prospects in store for farm and livestock production sectors, stating that in his opinion "the production models or schemes worked out during an era of cheap energy have entered a critical stage," which is why "it would be appropriate to begin to make realistic plans for the future to prepare ourselves for the changes that are certain to come."

The head of the AACREA concluded his talk, saying that "we should firmly bear in mind that each time businessmen pay more dearly for the lack of clearcut objectives, the absence of supportive proposals and hesitation as to the size and form of the objectives to be attained. The solution involving creation of more wealth," he added, "to provide the funds modification of current production systems requires is not a short-term one; on the contrary, at the present time all we can expect is stagnation or recession."

Aguado Expresses Doubt

Buenos Aires LA OPINION in Spanish 3 Jul 80 p 12

[Text] Argentine Rural Associations (CRA) President Jorge Aguado predicts a "stagnation" of farm production "due to a lack of return" and says that

the introduction of foreign exchange regulations has led to the deterioration of farm and livestock sector real income.

He said that his organization favors "free trade, not devaluation," and accused the state of "governmental interventionism" in the handling of interest rates.

In a statement made to NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS, he said that the individual meetings he had with members of the military junta and with President Jorge Videla were in response to the demand of producers who "feel that they are the highest authorities to whom they can appeal to reverse a situation that is pretty bad for the sector.

"We do not want privileges," he added, "we maintain that the rules of the game should be clear for all sectors.

"The expression of our concern," he went on, "has been well received and we feel that the authorities are perfectly aware of the fact that this is not merely an unjustified complaint, but one that is perfectly well-founded."

As for foreign exchange regulation, he said that it was introduced "in terms of what some economic sector official wanted or dreamed up, without its having any relation to the real situation."

He warned that "it is due to the introduction of these regulations and to the extent that they will go on opening the way to domestic costs that farm and livestock sector real income will continue to deteriorate."

He attributed "the basic problem" in our national economy to inflation, which "distorts everything" and is the source of what "for us is like a drug, the pegging of rates and prices, which is bad for the production sectors."

And lastly, he confirmed the fact that the CRA and CONINAGRO are negotiating to reach an agreement that will enable them to succeed in restoring plants, brands and subsidiary organizations outside of the CAP [Argentine Corporation of Meat Producers].

Foreign Farm Policies

Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 5 Jul 80 p 6

[Text] At a time when measures designed to influence our farm production are being announced, from abroad we receive news that cannot be ignored as concerns the development of such official provisions. Orientation, rather than incentive, which is a concern of governments in connection with private activities, should receive assistance from these reports since they concern policies adopted by other countries that compete with or are customers for our products.

Such is the case with the Brazilian decision to launch a vigorous program of incentives in the field of farm and livestock production as one of the ways of getting out of a situation unfavorably characterized by a 100-percent rise in prices, a foreign debt estimated at $50 billion and a costly need for importing oil. The official approach of our neighboring country is aimed at achieving $20 billion in exports (coffee and soybeans) and reducing wheat and meat imports, by means of which it will reduce the inflationary pressure of an inadequately supplied domestic demand in addition to achieving the beneficial effect of a better supply in the primary sector.

There are more instructive precedents than the Brazilian example as regards keeping in step with imminent world farm products trade. At the beginning of the 1973 summer season, then U.S. President Nixon released 3 million hectares which had lain fallow to prevent a greater demand for grain from Russia, at the same time saving the Treasury $1 billion which was distributed to farmers for not growing wheat. The event was a matter of public record and we comment on it here, and we also discovered that at the end of that year U.S. grain exports had risen by 90 percent in comparison with 1972, a year during which that country recorded a trade deficit of $6.8 million, which grain sales wiped out the following year.

Brazil seems to have adopted a similar decision. The financing of plantings has been granted top priority, with an anticipated investment of $1 billion, according to our information.

The challenge thus launched against an extremely rigorous and at times merciless nature constitutes an inestimable experience for the arduous management of the regional economies, which are now a cause for grave concern between us.

11,466
CSO: 3010

MAJOR CONTRIBUTION OF PRIVATE GRAIN EXPORTERS UNDERLINED

Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 15 Jul 80 p 16

[Text] Two months ago, the Bunge and Born company, one of the top-ranking local firms in the area of grain exporting, made the first private shipment after over 30 years of state monopoly over this activity.

This was made possible by the new Grain Law which was recently promulgated, allowing the private exporting sector to build terminal grain elevators (in ports). It is a noteworthy fact that several other first-rate companies also engaged in grain exporting activity have already made major investments for the construction of loading platforms and storage silos, located in areas near the cities of Rosario and Zarate.

For example, the Cenaro Garcia Inc. firm, which usually ranks among the 10 top companies exporting cereals and oleaginous products, has completed a plant for grain shipments with a capacity of approximately 30,000 tons, while it is estimated that two or three multinational companies engaged in the same activity are working on the establishment of this type of facility.

On the basis of this, several sources claim that, within another year, private exporting activity may have its own capacity for shipping grain and by-products, amounting to between 180,000 and 200,000 tons. This is a considerable figure, when one realizes that the National Grain Board has a port elevator capacity amounting to 1.150 million tons, some of which consists of obsolete facilities. Added to this are the underground port silos owned by that agency, with a capacity of nearly 1.5 million tons, although the latter are not being used for direct shipment, but rather for preliminary storage.

Effect

In this regard, the possession of an increasing storage and shipping capacity on the part of the large grain exporting firms could, in the near future, become an important factor affecting the internal process of marketing cereals, oleaginous products and byproducts.

In fact, the criticism made by various agricultural-livestock entities since the draft Grain Law was submitted had been aimed specifically at citing the possibility of the exporting sector's agreeing to the storage and direct shipment of these products. The criticism was based on the fact that the grain business in the country and the world is virtually headed by a few companies with considerable economic power. This could cause an unfair competition with the local exporting firms and with the producers' cooperatives which are also engaged in exporting grain, owing to the lesser economic power of the latter.

Recently, direct purchases of grain from the producers by the exporting sector have started to proliferate, a fact which was recently denounced by the North Buenos Aires Province Cereal Producers Association.

The fear underlying this criticism is that once the aforementioned large exporting firms have their own terminal silos and shipping ports, they would have a chance of determining prices to some extent, and of directing the external marketing at their convenience.

In fact, it has been noted that, between the end of December and the middle of April, external wheat prices in Buenos Aires (the amount charged by these exporting firms) have risen, converted into pesos depending on the corresponding dollar quotation, nearly 35 percent, owing to the pressure from the Soviet demand. Meanwhile, on the aforementioned market, the domestic prices (on the Grain Exchange) rose only between 15 and 18 percent.

Cooperatives and Monopolists

These two phenomena (the direct purchase by private exporters from producers and the absorption of differences between domestic and international prices by the aforementioned exporting sector) could become intensified if large companies marketing grain abroad continue to expand their own storage and shipping capacity, according to the responses from questions asked of the various agricultural and livestock entities.

According to the various sectors participating therein, the grain exporting structure already reflects a high degree of concentration, which could become more marked.

Operations

This structure shows that, in 1978, the six leading private exporting firms shipped 9.0 million tons of grain, representing 59 percent of the 15.3 million tons exported that year.

During the same period, the agricultural cooperative sector shipped nearly 2.1 million tons, representing 13.8 percent of the total amount exported,

with only 27.2 percent of the grain remaining to be shipped by about 100 smaller sized companies.

By 1979, it was found that the percentages for each of these sectors varied, with a trend favoring the cooperative sector and that of the small and medium sized companies; because the cooperatives shipped 16.6 percent of the total, compared with 52.5 percent shipped by the six leading exporting companies, and 30.9 percent was accounted for by the remaining firms engaged in this activity.

The current interest, when a new Grain Law actually goes into effect and the opening of private ports is permitted, is focused on whether this trend toward increased importance of the cooperative sector and the small and medium sized firm sectors will continue, or whether, on the contrary, an even greater centralization will begin to occur in the area of external marketing of grain.

2909
CSO: 3010

HUNDREDS OF WHEAT-LADEN TRUCKS TURNED BACK AT ROSARIO PORT

Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 15 Jul 80 p 39

[Text] Rosario--Nearly 400 trucks had to return from Rosario to their places of origin carrying their complete loads of grain when they were unable to make the transfer to the ships which were supposed to receive the grain in the local port, according to plan. Last Tuesday, there were operations in the port with an allowed depth of 32 feet. On Tuesday, 2 days later, the maximum allowed level was reduced to 26.3 feet, a situation which unexpectedly limited the cargo on several vessels. It is estimated that an average of about 1,000 tons of grain could not be loaded on each ship.

The Situation

The incident which occurred caused several hundred trucks waiting on the dock and others on the shore to return without being able to carry out the transshipment maneuvers. This situation prompted the Rosario Maritime Center to send a telegram to the chief of the Lower Parana District Department, located in Rosario, describing the economic damage which was created and which, it was claimed, dims our image abroad.

The cabled message stated: "The purpose of this telegram is to express our concern over the untimely change of specifications for navigation on the Parana River which, in 24 hours, were reduced by 5.7 feet, thereby causing serious detriment to loaded ships in the port of Rosario, upstream. Some had to reduce loads and other must remain in Rosario awaiting better water conditions."

The steamship "Jadwa" is still in the bay of the port of Rosario, unable to depart, just because its draft exceeds the figure now permitted. This situation has evoked understandable disturbance in maritime circles, accompanied by the reactions that have been noted.

2909
CSO: 3010

GUEVARA: ELMA TO BE TURNED OVER TO PRIVATE SECTOR

Buenos Aires LA OPINION in Spanish 15 Jul 80 p 9

[Text] Yesterday, in the course of a visit paid to the Corrientes shipyards during which he attended the launching ceremony for a grain barge, the secretary of maritime interests of the nation, Rear Adm Carlos Noe Guevara, announced that, "Argentine Shipping Lines (ELMA) will become privately owned in due time."

Noe Guevara reaffirmed that ELMA is an "essential political tool," but that this would not prevent it from "becoming privately owned," because, as a state enterprise, it cannot be expanded, but only renovated. He also added that the turning over of the river fleet to private hands would be completed, "the law for which is in the works, and will probably be passed before the end of the year."

After touring the facilities of the Corrientes shipyards, and even sailing on a remodeled tugboat which was making its maiden voyage, Rear Admiral Guevara attended the launching of a new "barge" for carrying grain on rivers, in the company of the chief of the River Naval Area, Rear Adm Carlos Alberto Barros.

Noe Guevara reported that an attempt is being made to "return cargo to the river," and stressed that there has been success in establishing "the Argentine flag in the shipment of cargo on the seas of Europe and Asia, and we are now seeking commercial shipping in the United States."

He said that the plans for the shipbuilding industry would be fulfilled, and this official recalled that, in 1976, that activity was "on the brink of collapse, but with renegotiation there was success in forging ahead and meeting deadlines," and he assessed the backing from private industry as positive.

He then claimed that the naval industrial process "will take effort, and there must be a change of mentality, motivating the companies, which will have to risk investment without waiting for the state to bear responsibility for a loss caused by poor administration."

With regard to the port of Buenos Aires, he added: "It has been filled up with imports, and so there has been a search for dry ports while, in order to ease the situation, there will be promotion of the port at Parana de las Palmas (Escobar), which will serve as an extension of the one in the city of Buenos Aires."

In conclusion, he noted that, next year, the Emilio Mitre channel will be equipped for use, because, before the end of the year, "we shall receive all the materials required for continuing the dredging."

2909
CSO: 3010

SORGHUM 1979-80 CROP ESTIMATES DOWN 51.6 PERCENT

Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 17 Jul 80 p 13

[Text] According to a second estimate made by the National Rural Economy and Sociology Service, which is subordinate to the Secretariat of Agriculture and Livestock, the production of graniferous sorghum for the 1979/80 season will total 3 million tons, a volume 51.6 percent less than that for the preceding cycle.

The report also stresses that, in comparison with the average production for the past 5-year and 10-year periods, this volume is down 49.8 and 41.8 percent, respectively.

The aforementioned figures result from the fact that, during the periods 1978/79, 1974/75-1978/79 and 1969/70-1978/79, 6.2 million, 5.978 million and 5.159 million tons, respectively, were harvested; and, for each one of the aforementioned cycles, this means a reduction of 3.2 million, 2.978 million and 2.159 million tons.

The report goes on to say that the drop in production is due to the unfavorable weather conditions which prevailed during the vegetative development of the crop in the main producing provinces, with the greatest damage in Cordoba, Buenos Aires and La Pampa, which had yields that were 70, 66.7 and 59.7 percent, respectively, under the output from the preceding season.

The only provinces which showed increases in production were Chaco and Formosa, with a rate of increase of 80.6 and 113.1 percent, respectively.

2909
CSO: 3010

TIMETABLE FOR NEW ECONOMIC MEASURES RELEASED

Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 15 Jul 80 p 6

[Text] Since measures were announced by the minister of economy, Dr Jose Alfredo Martinez de Hoz, in his message on Thursday, business owners have been uncertain about the dates on which they will go into effect.

The reports obtained by LA NACION in this respect indicate the following approximate status of the implementation.

Baggage: The resolution subjecting the baggage of tourists to the tariff that is in effect has already been issued. For travelers coming from bordering countries the measure will be in force starting on 18 July, and for those coming from other more distant countries, it will go into effect on 1 August.

Financial Measures: The Central Bank issued the circular letter eliminating the minimal period for loans assumed abroad. According to some views, all that would remain is to establish the regulations enabling the banks to operate as intermediaries for these loans, because it has been claimed that, up until now, they have done so only in the capacity of brokers.

Social Charges: The elimination of the social charges levied on business firms will take place in two phases, and in halves: the first, starting on 1 October, and the second, upon the beginning of the future fiscal period, on 1 January.

Tariff Exemption: This process, which entails a reform in the gradual reduction of tariffs, will be initiated on 1 October, with a rise in the quarterly scale of reductions in tariff protection, culminating in the program with a maximum import duty of 20 percent.

It is estimated that there will be an acceleration of the passage of a law to abolish the extra-tariff rates and incorporate them as part of the tariff. On that occasion, the points which result from the tariff compensation that is available will not be added to the tariff when the latter exceeds 55 percent.

As an example, we might mention the automotive industry, which enjoys an 85 percent tariff protection, and the color television industry, whose tariff protection is 60 percent. In these instances, points will not be added to them as a result of the elimination of the extra-tariff rates.

General Application of the VAT: The general application of the Value Added Tax (VAT) is scheduled to begin with the new fiscal year, that is, starting on 1 January.

Rates: The new (energy) rate policy will, it is estimated, increase the relative reduction in industrial costs and, as a result, will bring about a greater percentage of increase in domestic rates. It will go into effect with the next adjustment. The resolution calling for a reduction in consumption in the case of electro-intensive or gas-intensive industries has yet to be issued.

Taxes: The taxes which are paid to various agencies for different purposes in the form of various levies will disapppear at a rate compatible with the execution of the budget; because, as everyone knows, the treasury must provide for the needs which these funds formerly covered.

Fourth Category: The elimination of the tax paid by the workers for bonuses related to the firm could, as the minister predicted, take place when the next budget is initiated, in other words, starting on 1 January.

Automotive Industry: The measures related to the automotive industry: a change in the official import prices and in the law on internal taxes, is said to be in the process of approval, so that they may go into effect within a short period.

As we know, the change in official import prices is aimed at bringing the prices in line with the international ones, something which (according to a claim made in government circles) has occurred to some extent with those of vehicles with fewer cylinders, but not those with a larger number. The purpose of the reform to the law on internal taxes is to give imported vehicles the same tax treatment as that given to native vehicles; in other words, an increasing rate related to consumption.

Finally, the 20 percent cut in the tariff protecting double traction vehicles will go into effect at the time when the respective decree is issued.

2909
CSO: 3010

THREE NEW OIL WELLS BEGIN PRODUCTION

Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 16 Jul 80 p 12

[Text] Mendoza--It has been confirmed that three more oil wells have gone into production in the area south of Mendoza. There was no official announcement on the subject, but reports indicate that these wells are located in Cerro Mollar, Puesto Miranda and Rio Grande, all in the department of Malargue.

Moreover, there is obvious enthusaism on the part of Government Oil Deposits [YPF] technicians and workers, owing to the highly successful results accrued from the various operations in the area.

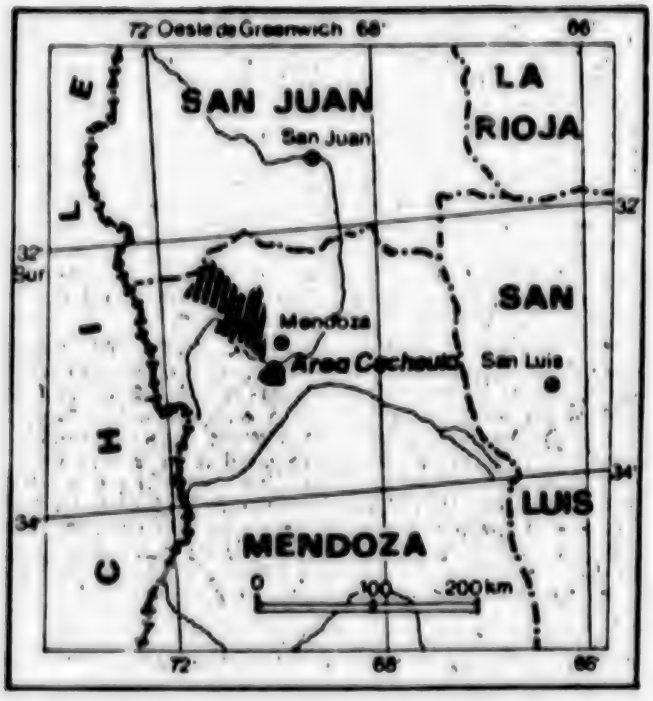
Bidding

The Government Oil Deposits enterprise called for bids in order to award the work involving the development and secondary recovery of oil in the Cacheuta area, in Mendoza Province, which is associated with the so-called "Cuyana Basin."

The area for which the bidding has been called covers an expanse of 26,353 hectares.

The period established for the contract is 15 years, and it may be extended for an additional 5 years, with the consent of the contracting parties.

It has been stipulated that the bidders must submit a work program enumerating the projects that they propose to implement, which will be required to call for the execution of a plan for the repair and overhauling of the wells existing in the deposit, and to specify the number of drillings that they intend to carry out during the period when the contract is in effect.



The arrow indicates the Cacheuta area, south of Mendoza, which has been opened to bidding by YPF for work involving oil development and secondary recovery.

2909
CSO: 3010

LATIN AMERICAN LEADERS' REACTION TO BOLIVIAN DEVELOPMENTS

[LD051525 Editorial Report] Madrid YA in Spanish 30 July 1980 publishes on page 6 a Jose V. Colchero interview in Lima with Colombian President Turbay Ayala, dealing principally with the effects of the recent coup in Bolivia on the Andean Pact. President Turbay says that he does not believe "that what has happened in Bolivia is exactly an encouragement, but nor do I believe that it is a tragedy from the viewpoint of mere economic cooperation."

With respect to the political aspect he makes the following statements:

"We must respect the principles of nonintervention, which is an essential principle of the inter-American system, and it must be studied in harmony with the system of self-determination of peoples. The self-determination of peoples is frequently prevented by respecting the principle of nonintervention. The case of Bolivia is typical: We cannot intervene, because the principle of nonintervention makes this impossible, but it was not the people but the Bolivian armed forces which prevented that nation's self-determination."

With respect to political sanctions he states that "there is no possibility of imposing that kind of sanctions within the inter-American system."

Madrid YA in Spanish 31 July 1980 publishes on page 7 Jose V. Colchero interviews in Lima with Peruvian President Belaunde Terry, Costa Rican President Carazo and Venezuelan President Herrere Campins, dealing principally with the effects of the Bolivian coup and relations with Spain.

President Belaunde expresses the hope that cooperation between Spain and Peru "will have the scope which it had under my previous administration, when relations were not only cultural but also extremely important trading and technical relations."

President Carazo describes the events in Bolivia as "extremely worrying," and in reply to a question about his absence from the celebrations in Nicaragua marking the first anniversary of the overthrow of the Somoza regime, which were attended, among others, by President Castro, he comments: "The 19 July celebration was in order to celebrate the fall of one tyrant, and it made no sense to celebrate it at the side of another tyrant."

President Herrera Campins states that during his meeting in Lima with Spanish Prime Minister Adolfo Suarez, "We broached political and economic matters. We discussed everything, but, in particular, relations with the Andean Pact and what we could describe as the defense of democracy." He also denies that his personal relations with Suarez are not very good.

CSO: 3010

GOAL OF 60 MILLION TONS OF GRAIN SET FOR 1980-81 CROP

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 27 Jul 80 p 44

[Article by Jorge Rosa: "Good Price Alone Does Not Guarantee Superharvest"]

[Text] Brasilia--The government has set a goal of producing 60 million tons of grain (rice, corn, soybeans, beans, peanuts and wheat) in the 1980-81 crop year, which would be a 20 percent increase over this year's crop. Government experts acknowledge, however, that the goal is ambitious because minimum prices alone, even if remunerative, are not enough to induce the farmer to use modern technology for increasing yields. Such a response, they explain, can come only after several years. Meanwhile, from 1 year to the next it is more reasonable to expect significant growth of production through opening up pioneer areas which, however, requires large investments.

Some government experts assert that meeting domestic demand for grain next year will require at least 15.7 million tons of soybeans; 10 million tons of rice; 2.6 million tons of beans; and 26.5 million tons of corn, representing increases of 5.8, 3.2, 40 and 29 percent, respectively, compared to this year's crop. Even acknowledging that minimum prices set by the government for next year's crop cover production costs and still leave a margin for return on investment, the experts explain that the farmer may cut down on use of some inputs, especially fertilizer, the price of which in some cases has increased more than 200 percent. If this should happen, yield will be severely threatened.

They also explain that expansion of crop production by more than 13 percent would constitute a victory, considering that production costs for most crops have risen more than 100 percent. Production in the 1979-80 crop year was almost 30 percent greater than the previous year, but this performance cannot be considered normal, since the previous year had climatic problems that resulted in a crop of only 40.5 million tons, whereas forecasts before the drought began were for almost 49 million tons according to the Production Financing Commission (CFP) survey in January 1979. Taking the 1976-77 crop for purposes of comparison, grain supply increased 13.6 percent. This means that population growth in the 1977-80 period virtually absorbed the increase in supply.

This year's grain production, based upon CFP estimates, shwed the following relationship to apparent consumption (in tons):

	Production	Consumption
Corn	20,400,000	20,500,000
Soybeans	14,900,000	13,200,000
Beans	2,100,000	2,400,000
Rice	9,800,000	9,000,000
Peanuts	500,000	490,000
Wheat	2,800,000	6,700,000
Total	50,500,000	52,290,000

The figures referring to production correspond to the CFP's maximum estimate because if the minimum figures were used aggregate grain supply would fall to 49 million tons, which is 3 million tons less than the estimate Agriculture Minister Amaury Stabile has been announcing as the 1979-80 crop output.

Supply

Although the 1979-80 crop increased by a record 30 percent over the previous year's, supply problems are worsening because production barely meets demand, aggravated further by the drought in the Northeast which forced the government to import 600,000 tons of corn, with prospects of reaching 1 million tons. Foreign purchases of black beans have already reached 39,000 tons and could total 50,000. Although not enough to cover the supply deficit, imports will reduce the effects of shortages in the city of Rio de Janeiro, where monthly consumption of black beans is 15,000 tons.

Some experts acknowledge that to close the grain supply gap resulting from the poor harvests of 1977-78 and 1978-79--and also generate surpluses to allow the government to form reserve stocks and neutralize price speculation--grain production next year would have to be over 60 million tons.

That growth should be concentrated especially in corn and beans. The government is predicting corn consumption of over 24 million tons, which corresponds to an increase of 20.5 percent. Estimated bean consumption is almost 2.6 million tons, which would leave a very narrow margin for reserves unless production exceeds that amount.

In view of such prospects the government had no alternative but to increase minimum prices at rates greater than that of inflation. Corn and beans, for example, had price increases of 155 and 194 percent respectively; rice, 125 percent; and soybeans, 109 percent.

Even with remunerative minimum prices, the experts do not hide their pessimism about prospects for the next crop, considering a 20 percent increase highly unlikely in view of high production costs and rural-credit restrictions. They explained that it is illusory to think the farmer will put enough of his own money into his crop to make up for less credit. The

farmer knows the risks are very great and he therefore does not intend to overextend his own capital, which he is just beginning to rebuild after 2 consecutive years of poor crops.

To produce a sack of soybeans this year the farmer will spend 660 cruzeiros, compared to 290 cruzeiros the year before, while the minimum price is 660 cruzeiros. A sack of corn will cost the farmer 409 cruzeiros, compared to 180 cruzeiros in the 1979-80 crop year, with a minimum price of 474 cruzeiros for the coming crop year. Beans are in a better position, since a sack will cost 1,200 cruzeiros in the next crop year, compared to 550 cruzeiros in the previous crop year, whereas the minimum price of 1,800 cruzeiros will give the farmer plenty of margin, which should remove the threat of a possible reduction of planted area. For dryland rice the cost is forecast at about 520 cruzeiros, compared to 290 cruzeiros in the 1979-80 crop year, while the minimum price was set at 720 cruzeiros. For irrigated rice the estimated cost is 670 cruzeiros per sack.

Some experts assert the current corn/soybeans price ratio is favorable to planting corn, not only in respect to market prices but also in respect to the minimum price set for the coming crop year. A farmer who is now producing 1,700 kilograms of soybeans per hectare could easily produce over 3,000 kilograms pf corn per hectare at lower costs. The government is thus clearly assuming that corn production will increase about 28 percent next year, compared to an increase of about 6 percent in the soybean crop.

8834
CSO: 3001

JULY CFP FORECASTS MOSTLY UNCHANGED; EDITORIAL COMMENT

Beans Down, Cotton Up

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 15 Jul 80 p 27

[Text] Brasilia--National wheat production this year could be between 2.9 million and 3.1 million tons, the Production Financing Commission [CFP] announced yesterday. That is the first official forecast, which, should it be confirmed, will mean an increased supply over last year's, when 2,861,000 tons were harvested, even though the planted area has been reduced by 700,000 hectares. This reduction, experts say, will be made up for by higher yields, which in some places could be as much as 1,300 kilograms per hectare.

Only insignificant changes were reported this month in forecasts for other crops, except for beans, reduced about 100 tons below last month's estimate. The CFP now expects production to be between 1,980,000 tons and 2,110,000 tons. The CFP also announced that the government decided to exempt corn and sorghum purchased in LAFTA member countries from the import tax. However, the ICM [tax on movement of merchandise] and the IOF [financial transactions tax] rates payable on imports remain in effect.

The CFP reaffirmed its forecasts made last month for rice, soybeans and corn which, if confirmed, will provide a rice supply between 9.5 million and 9.8 million tons; 20.0 million to 20.4 million tons of corn; and 14.6 million to 14.9 million tons of soybeans. The CFP reevaluated the [cotton?] crop, with a small increase over the month of June. Production may be between 576,000 and 589,000 tons, which will raise total supply to over 700,000 tons, as a supply of 117,000 tons remains from the previous crop. According to the CFP, this is more than enough to meet domestic consumption, which is forecast at 570,000 tons. Producers expect the government will exempt low-quality cotton from the export tax.

Editorial Comment

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 16 Jul 80 p 22

[Editorial: "Distorted Agriculture"]

[Text] The Production Finance Commission has issued another crop forecast, virtually reaffirming its previous estimates, with widespread increases except for beans, which had a reduction. However, the government claims the need to make some imports, not only of beans but also of other goods such as corn, to stabilize the market. In the specific case of corn, for example, prices are very high, having risen from 320 to 420 cruzeiros per sack in only 30 days.

The CFP estimates the corn crop will be between 20.0 and 20.4 million tons, while the IBGE [Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics] is forecasting 21 million tons. It is not an exceptional crop, as the last good one, in 1977, was 19.2 million tons. So if we take into consideration the increase in consumption, especially this year--in the form of rations for poultry and hogs--it could even be said that we are faced with rather tight supplies in view of current consumption levels.

That would warrant importing corn to meet market demand. Moreover, if we compare corn prices in the domestic market with those prevailing today on the Chicago Board of Trade, we will see that ours are 30 to 40 percent higher! In such circumstances, bearing in mind not only production and consumption levels but also high prices, imports are perfectly justified, not only to meet domestic market demand but also to avoid higher prices. In fact, one gets the impression that corn is being sold on the basis of a forecast of 19 million tons rather than 20 million to 21 million tons.

However, the phenomenon seems to go deeper and to be more serious, hinting to us we are dealing not just with a forecasting error, as other products--with less intensity, it is true--are under the same upward pressure. What about the superharvest? If it is confirmed at around 52 million tons of grains, has domestic consumption really increased enough, under the influence of inflation, to absorb all of it?

A more detailed analysis of the indices leads us to conclude, for instance, that the great harvest, now confirmed by the CFP, is not of much help in reducing the rate at which living costs are rising. In fact, from January to June, while the cost of living in Sao Paulo increased 31 percent, food costs increased 29.9 percent. Now, abundant crops should have led to a much different result, with a smaller role being played by food prices in the rate of inflation.

What, after all, has been going on? Of course, this year's crops, especially grains, have not yet come to market as readily as is possible or desirable. But why? To a large degree this is due to interest-rate subsidies the government provides for marketing transactions. In fact, this

subsidy, which existed for operations, continues in existence for marketing, now benefiting middlemen the most. Production was financed at an interest rate of 2 to 2.5 percent a month, while the rate of inflation was at least 5 percent. After harvesting, the government should have stipulated more realistic interest rates for marketing transactions--the EGF (Federal Government Loan)--which, however, it did not do. The interest rate is less than 3 percent a month.

Clearly, farmers, directly or through their cooperatives, and middlemen haven't the slightest interest in disposing of their production, since they can count on subsidized interest of 3 percent while inflation rises, now over 5 percent a month! Thus, crops are still being held back, causing upward pressure on prices that would not be justified in a reasonably good crop year. For this year, little can be done to expedite marketing, as the contracts have already been or are now being signed, with a term of 90 to 120 days. Whatever is necessary will have to be imported, especially corn and beans.

This fact shows that the federal government's agriculture policy is not very clear and well-defined. It did indeed try to support agriculture, but did not take the most appropriate measures for marketing to be processed at a normal pace so this sector would comply with its mission. Excessively subsidized interest rates for marketing in an inflationary situation such as the present represents a serious error for which we are now paying. But this is not the only distortion to be found in establishing current agriculture policy, as a criterion of priority between subsistence and export crops has not yet been determined, which could cause even more serious problems next year.

8834
CSO: 3001

BRIEFS

PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO BEAGLE PROBLEM--Buenos Aires, 22 July (NA)--Gen Julio Canessa, chief of staff of the Chilean army, today said in this capital that the Chilean and Argentine military tacitly agree that the beagle conflict, which is currently under papal mediation, must be overcome. During a short stopover at Ezeiza airport on his return trip to Santiago, General Canessa said: "There is a tacit agreement among military men that the beagle conflict must be overcome." General Canessa, who is considered as one of the most influential officers in the Chilean army next to Commander in Chief Gen Augusto Pinochet, stayed a few days in Uruguay where he attended the 1830 Constitution Anniversary ceremony celebrations. Referring to the beagle conflict, General Canessa said: "I do not know about a beagle conflict. I believe there is a pending problem which is being discussed and which is in excellent hands." General Canessa added: "I wish, as all Chileans sincerely do, that the conflict be peacefully overcome because Argentina and Chile have complemented each other throughout history. Nothing will separate us." He remarked that "all the southern cone countries sharing common interests and facing similar problems, like Argentina and Chile, should unite to contribute to promoting the happiness the inhabitants of this zone deserve." [Excerpt] [PY250402 Buenos Aires Noticias Argentinas in Spanish 1948 GMT 22 Jul 80]

NEW SANTIAGO GARRISON COMMANDER--Gen Carlos Morales Retamal has been sworn in as the new commander of the Santiago Garrison. General Morales Retamal will replace Gen Humberto Gordon, who was appointed director of the National Information Center (CNI) last week. [Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 29 Jul 80]

PRESS REPORTING ON TERRORISM RESTRICTED--Gen Carlos Morales Retamal, chief of the Metropolitan and San Antonio Province Emergency Zone, has said that a recent resolution will restrict reporting on terrorist activities. General Morales said that the lifting of the restriction will depend on future developments. He said he will continue the policy set up by his predecessor, Gen Humberto Gordon. Regarding the resolution that affects the media, General Morales said: It is still early to think about lifting it, since we are living in uneasy times. Referring to the difficult political situation, he said he will work hard to overcome this irregular climate

to restore tranquility and security to the citizenry. General Morales said that his force will seek to identify the perpetrators of the recent attacks committed by political extremists and that security forces are working intensively to capture them. [Text] [PY300400 Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 30 Jul 80]

PRISONERS END HUNGER STRIKE--The hunger strike in the women's jail has ended. This was reported by judicial sources who stated that the two prisoners who were fasting have given up. The unsuccessful strikers were identified as (Ines Diaz) and Ana Luisa Penailillo, former mistress of Andres Pascal Allende--leader of the Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR). Two other prisoners of the Woman's Guidance Center, formerly called the Reformatory Center, gave up their strike 2 days ago. The frustrated demonstrators had demanded that they be placed in a special sector of the center. [Text] [PY301439 Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 30 Jul 80]

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION--(Enrique Etchegaray Aubris), under secretary of the Agricultural Planning Department, has reported that agricultural production for the 1979-80 period increased by 8.2 percent in comparison with 1978-79 period. This increase does not include vegetable and grape production. [PY301625 Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 30 Jul 80]

TRADE FIGURES--According to a report issued by the Central Bank, Chilean foreign trade during the first 6 months of the year reached $5,029,000,000. This is an increase of 47.5 percent over the same period in 1979. The report also points out that the United States, Japan, Brazil and the FRG are the countries with which Chile deals most. Exports reached $2,509,000,000, which represents an increase of 50.7 percent. Imports reached $2,520,000,000, which represents an increase of 44.4 percent. Therefore, the trade balance shows a deficit of $11 million. [PY230327 Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 23 Jul 80]

INDONESIAN GOVERNMENT DELEGATION--A delegation of the Indonesian Supreme Advisory Council, something similar to the Chilean State Council, arrived in Santiago this afternoon. The delegation is headed by (Sailani Nado), vice president of the Advisory Council and president of the political party that supports President Suharto. During their stay in the country the delegation will meet with President Pinochet, the defense minister and representatives of the private sector. [PY230327 Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 23 Jul 80]

NEW ZEALAND EXPORT DIRECTOR--(Rod Stallcome), the director of the New Zealand Export Institute, has come to Chile for a 2-day visit heading a delegation of 11 representatives of the private sector. During a meeting with Guillermo Lunecke, director of the Chilean Exports Promotion Institute (PROCHILE), he stated that several countries wish to lift the labor boycott against Chile which was initiated in 1975. The delegation voiced its interest in

taking part in the development of reforestation, technical and energy programs. [PY230327 Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 23 Jul 80]

NEW ZEALAND AMBASSADOR APPROVED--The Chilean government has approved the appointment of Ian Landon-Lane as the new ambassador of New Zealand to this country. [PY291343 Santiago Chile Diplomatic Information Serivce in Spanish 0236 GMT 29 Jul 80]

INTERIOR MINISTRY APPOINTMENT--Air Force Gen Enrique Montero Marks has been appointed deputy interior minister. [PY232015 Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 23 Jul 80]

SPANISH UNION LEADER EXPELLED--Madrid, 2 Aug (TELAM)--The Spanish Office of Diplomatic Information revealed today in this capital that Francisco Gomez Ortun, socialist union leader of the General Workers Union (UGT), has already been expelled from Chile after the timely intervention of the Spanish representation in Chile. Union sources indicated to EFE that the UGT militant was arrested for political reasons on 30 July upon leaving his relative's house in the Chilean capital. After the intervention of the Spanish Diplomatic Office in Santiago, union members said to EFE that Gaspar Francisco Gomez is now on his way back to Spain. [Text] [PY050348 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1412 GMT 2 Aug 80]

PRESIDENT OF JOURNALISTS ASSOCIATION--Lisandro Canepa Guzman, secretary of EL MERCURIO newspaper, has been appointed president of the National Council of the Journalists Association. [PY241244 Santiago ERCILLA in Spanish 15 Jul 80 p 6]

CSO: 3010

PAPER COMMENTS ON CORRUPTION, TENSIONS IN ACADEMIA, LABOR

San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 3 Jul 80 p 14A

[Editorial: "Three Disturbing Signs"]

[Text] With no intent to alarm, and much less to posit ourselves as seers of possible impending doom, we nevertheless feel compelled to point up, while it is still timely, a number of disturbing signs that are emanating from different ambits of our national life and that--without necessarily being interrelated among themselves--are converging in a thrust that is impelling us toward a social and political crisis from which it could be very difficult to extricate ourselves by way of our cherished institutional and juridical channels.

If those who are presently leading the nation have not yet become aware of these signs, they would do well to begin now devoting some attention to them, lest they be the last to awaken to what is going on virtually under their very noses in this great Central American democracy. The arms traffic to Marxist guerrilla groups in El Salvador, the financial situation in the institutions of higher learning, and the wage and salary pressures are three of the most important.

Much evidence exists that, rooted in the wave of political violence now making itself felt throughout Central America, a copious and lucrative arms traffic has prospered in Costa Rica. While the mass media continue to divulge its precise, serious and corroborative details, the minister of public security and other members of the government claim to know nothing about them and, far from taking the initiative to institute a complete investigation down to the last detail, are waiting for the Legislative Assembly, and even the Panamanian Government, to take the initiative.

From another sector of national life, another threat is arising. This one stems from the confused and openly politicized situation surrounding the financing of higher education, at least in the National University. With more political than institutional mindedness, the L[illegible]ive Assembly approved a round sum for the university centers, without investigating the real needs or the management of public funds in any of them.

Adding to the immediate tensions produced by the university deficits, and those yet to come as a result of their poorly thought out funding, are the wage and salary pressures of the public sector, and now those of the country's banana zones, with clear threats of strikes. The CGTC [General Confederation of Costa Rican Workers], the labor arm of the Communist Party, is seeking not to negotiate but to regain prestige through a widespread labor paralysis in a sector of production that is essential to the nation, regardless of the serious national consequences such an attitude will produce.

All of these symptoms, of dire significance individually, could come together simultaneously and produce unimagined consequences. Political corruption, now situated at the Central American level, the tensions in academic circles, and disturbances to social peace by way of radical and sectarian labor union activity, together, could lead us to the edge of the precipice if clear, energetic and foresighted action is not taken now. Perhaps never before has it been so necessary to do so. The time has come, therefore, for the government to awaken from its lethargy and to take the needed action.

9399
CSO: 3010

CARAZO SCORES CUBAN REGIME, URGES TECHNICAL TRAINING

San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 28 Jun 80 p 25A

[Article by Luis Fernandez Cordero, special correspondent]

[Excerpts] Santa Cruz--President of the Republic Rodrigo Carazo criticized the Cuban regime and those of other so-called "paradise" countries yesterday as he inaugurated the Cartagena Farming and Livestock Technical Training College in Santa Cruz de Guanacaste.

The chief executive affirmed that "while other countries send their youth to fight in Africa, we send them to fight the plow to make the soil produce."

In his address, the head of state spoke of the refugees and of the thousands of citizens who are lining up at a pier to abandon the country in which they live. He added that in Costa Rica, our youth forms endless lines to greet the president of the republic and its officials, who arrive without bodyguards and without surveillance.

Riches of a Loftier Nature

Later, at the inauguration of the 27 April Farming and Livestock Technical Training College in the district of the same name in Santa Cruz, President Carazo said, "Let us not think only in terms of materal wealth; mankind thrives on riches of a loftier nature."

The president said that the person who projects himself or herself into the future builds a better world. "Let us project ourselves using work as our weapon. Let us remember that the measure of our duties and responsibilities is a function of reality as we find it."

The chief executive stated that the education of peoples must be aimed at improving the human condition, and that the training of the individual must aim not merely to specialize him for the performance of a specific job but rather to enable him to become a vital member of the community.

Referring to the mission of technical training in a country like Costa Rica, Carazo said that a productive life contributes to the aggrandizement of the nation.

"We are training our youth," he said, "so that they can in turn train their children. It is the most higly trained person who contributes the most to the productive growth of the nation."

He emphasized further, "Let us put aside our traditional concepts as well as the consumerist modernism that sometimes weighs down a people. We cannot detach ourselves from the soil because it is our source of well-being."

Those taking part in the ceremonies included Minister of Education Maria Eugenia Dengo de Vargas, Vice Minister of Transportation Ricardo Rodriguez, the representative in Costa Rica of the IDB, Danilo Poplevovick, and the director of the joint Ministry of Education-IDB project, Horacio Morales.

9399
CSO: 3010

HAVANA TELEVISION CREW 'INFILTRATED' PERUVIAN EMBASSY

Havana EL CAIMAN BARBUDO in Spanish Jun 80 pp 3-5, 22

[Article by Victor Martin Borrego: "The Essence of Our 'Dissidents'"; passages enclosed in slantlines printed in boldface]

[Excerpts] Despite all the facilities our authorities made available to national and foreign journalists (in the latter case without regard for the type of press agency they worked for: cables datelined AP, AFP, EFE, DPA, PL, TASS, as well as several television networks and many newspapers and magazines reported--or misreported, as the case may be--everything they wanted in terms of what happened at the Peruvian Embassy); even though Cuba wanted to make sure the /truth/ was known, to go beyond the gate of the "diplomatic compound" of that Andean nation became an act of near suicidal proportions, especially for those who could not prove their non-communist origins. Producers Santiago Alvarez and Daniel Diaz Torres, of ICAIC [Cuban Institute of Cinematographic Arts and Industry] Latin American News, and Cuban television reporter Isabel Larguia, present here the experiences they had while filming from outside--and inside!--the Peruvian Embassy. . .

The Seventh Circle of Dante's Inferno, or Perhaps, the Dream That Criminalist Cesare Lombroso Was Unable To Objectivize

On the afternoon of 5 April, the Latin American news service ICAIC's film team began its work. All along the fence that separates the Peruvian Embassy from our territory, they worked for several consecutive days. . .

"As we already reported on the television program '24 x segundos' [24 frames per second], we had enough equipment to be able to film from /outside/ the embassy. It was hard to recognize us, and we wanted to avoid provocation. According to the /scum/ who found 'refuge' in that place, if we had entered we undoubtedly would have seen the worst. And if that had happened, Cuban authorities would have been in an embarrassing situation. That extraordinary den, as we all know, was under the protection of the Peruvian Government, and obviously there was no security at all in there.

"If it were not so certain that that /reality/ truly existed, and that therefore the testimony gathered was so important, it could be said that these /facts/ were more fiction; it could also be said that the gathering of such information would require an infinitely more prolific imagination than all the fantasies invested in the movies made in Hollywood about the life and customs of any prison population. . ."

The morning of Tuesday, 8 April, a Cuban television team managed to infiltrate the Peruvian Embassy . . .:

". . . Look," says Comrade Isabel Larguia, "if some virtue of mine was revealed by this effort, it was not exactly /audacity/, but I distinguished myself as an /expert liar/, with a coldbloodedness I never thought possible. I consider myself incapable of deceiving a comrade. Now, the only way I could handle those scoundrels was to lie to them. Moreover, I was the one most likely to be able to protect the operators who were with me. They behaved very bravely, sometimes even /too daringly/, I think. Martinez Carmona on the camera as well as Jorge Paredes the assistant (who was about to be lynched) and Mario Martinez the recorder, could not pass as foreigners very easily. With the slight accent I still have, I could at least get by.

"It was not easy to convince them. . . While they suspected that we were Cubans, they threatened us with four-letter words and vulgar gestures: the ones who insisted most on the latter tactic were the 'little men.' They also tried to insult us by shouting: 'Communists, Communists!'

"That was when we started in. We showed our displeasure with that 'affront;' we warned them that we came from Channel X in /such and such/ a country. These /trash/, who hardly seemed to know where the United States is, could not distinguish the shades of greater or lesser representativeness and aggressiveness of the country I claimed to come from. The only important thing for them was that it was a capitalist nation. Even so, there were always those who insisted that we were communists.

"Then I decided to take advantage of several women who, along with some small children, were watching me from the fence. Taking on the posture of one of /those women/ seen in bad Ibero-American films (a la Mecha Ortiz or Amela Bence), I indicated my interest in taking any message they had to deliver to the 'free world,' but said that given that situatior I had no choice but to leave. Sure enough, they took my side and begged the /commanders/ to allow me to enter. Calling one of those /commanders/ 'Sir' and showing a certain deference for his rank, I managed to get him to order that they immediately form a security cordon around me. There was even an attempted fight against the ones who held their ground, who argued that we were infiltrators.

"Along with all that I have recounted, other very important factors, in my opinion, came into play. I am referring to the /collective personality/ which surrounds these people. Even putting on an act, we were more Cuban than any other nationality. However, we managed to bamboozle them because

they had to justify themselves, unconsciously, in order to express all their hysteria and their blind, undying individualism; they had to know that they were really the center of the universe. These traits characterized people who range from Trotsky to today's 'dissidents' of a certain type on an international scale. And these /trash/ are not excluded from that category."

"On Tuesday the 8th," says Isabel Larguia, "when I went in, the excrement and urine were running like rivers into the street. Adults and older children went around without shoes, perhaps to get around better, because you would sink up to your ankles.

"The smallest children, in some cases, were placed in a kind of nest, an improvised pigsty on top of the muddy garbage; they were covered from the sun with a blanket in a sort of army tent."

"In the ICAIC news broadcast," remembers Santiago Alvarez, "you could see very clearly how our government built bathrooms all along the fence. They put in first aid stations, a fleet of ambulances was organized, etc. It is obvious that the /commanders/ prohibited people from leaving, precisely so that the existing bad conditions inside the Embassy would serve to maintain an atmosphere of high tension.

"Judging by the way the situation was handled, CIA participation should not be ruled out; it is possible that the CIA manipulated behavior by the /commanders/ themselves. One means of communication between the two could have been established through the Peruvian diplomatic officials, who came and went constantly. Who knows, maybe they even organized a business inside."

"The children, for their part," added Larguia, "had been taken to the Embassy irresponsibly by their parents, and they were exposed to the horrible health conditions described above; besides, they were used like banners. When they saw that we were going to film, or that some reporter was going to approach the fence, right away they put their children in front of the cameras so that they would appear to be 'suffering, desperate refugees.'"

"In addition to the plight of the children," add the ICAIC comrades, "there were spectacles put on inside the Embassy, which according to the people we interviewed were hair-raising."

Isabel Larguia comments, "Trying to get to the bottom of these people's personality, to get to the heart of the matter, and bearing in mind that historical lesson which tells us that /during great crises one can see the essence of phenomena/, I decided to question a group of them. Their behavior indicated to me that they were among the leaders of the group, and I asked them what kind of work they hoped to find abroad. In the beginning I proposed some suggestions, and right away, without thinking, I put forth the idea that they might like coming to work as police, along /with us/ (incidentally, I let it be known that I might possibly be an agent also). They responded in unison that they would. In addition, they

stated (in front of the cameras) that they would agree to work in that occupation in order to do away with communism, in order to combat progressive movements, guerrillas, all communist parties, in any part of the world."

Absolute Disdain for Homeland

"These 'gentlemen' whom enemy propaganda has termed 'patriots,' had the audacity to tear up their identification cards and throw them away. Even when I was still outside the Embassy compound, I.D. cards indicating the nationality of those expatriots fell at my feet. That insult, that affront to the honor of being Cuban, of being--ultimately--Latin American (because most of them had never before expressed any interest in Peru, and they didn't care about any of our nations) is one more indication of the low grade of /trash/ they all are. . ."

"But what can we expect," explain the ICAIC comrades, "from individuals sporting tattoos such as 'USA POR TI ME VOY' [USA here I come] or 'USA SI CUBA NO' [USA yes, Cuba no]? Parenthetically, let us remember how - in a documentary recording our Commander in Chief's visit to the United Nations as president of the Non-Aligned Countries Movement, a son of Masferrer, surprised in the middle of a demonstration by 'usanos' in downtown New York City, was seen to shout at the top of his lungs that he was fighting for the United States, that he felt no attachment to his country of origin. These coincidences are no accident."

"It is worth noting the dirty manipulation of the so-called "boat people" of South Vietnam by the imperialists. This was a case of emigration en masse, and they want to compare our case to it. But what the propaganda spokesmen leave out is that those South Vietnamese refugees were the /scum/, the lumpens and other corrupt people that emerged as a result of the presence of the Yankee army on Annamese soil."

Elements that Distinguish Our Dissidents

"The typical 'dissident,'" according to Isabel Larguia, "is not only 'declasse,' but also a 'semi-delinquent.' He might even have a good education, and judging by his conduct, could be as criminal as the most low-class person of them all. For example, he who speculates about proving the invalidity of Marxism-Leninism, the inefficacy of true socialism, which means the application of science to the direction of society, he is in fact an /intellectual fraud/.

"Any attack on science itself by a scientist is as serious a crime as an attack on ownership. The only distinction is the degree of knowledge, but from a moral, ethical and juridical point of view the attitude is exactly the same.

"Specifically, I think the basic elements that make up the nature of our 'delinquents' are:

"--Their criminal and anti-social character.

"--Their low I.Q.

"--A hysterical need to stand out, to practice exhibitionism.

"--A personalism, individualism in the extreme, which truly makes them believe that they are especially important beings.

"These characteristics to a great extent have also contributed to their exclusion from our social environment. . ."

The comrades who were interviewed did not deny the possibility that with the film materials they possess, in the not too distant future they might make new films on this topic.

8926
CSO: 3010

ANTONIO MACEO EMIGRE YOUTH BRIGADE MEMBERS INTERVIEWED

Havana GRANMA in Spanish 9, 10, 12, 18 Jul 80

[Four-part interview with Antonio Maceo Brigade members by Roger Ricardo]

[9 Jul 80, p 2]

[Text] Our country regards the work of the Antonio Maceo Youth Brigade with admiration and respect and is interested in knowing more details about the organization, operation, and composition of the group.

Ricardo Fraga, leader of the brigade, talks about this.

Fraga says that, starting with the Carlos Muniz Second Contingent and the accumulated experience of those years, the Antonio Maceo Brigade took a qualitative leap in its organization through development of its statutes and political platform and consolidation of the work of the International Coordinating Committee, which includes the national committees in the United States and Puerto Rico, Mexico, Venezuela and Spain.

He says that one very important aspect of the Antonio Maceo Brigade's work is the political platform, the principles of which include lifting the economic blockade, reestablishing diplomatic relations, promoting dialog, and not accepting terrorism as a means of arguing the Cuban case.

"Based on that," he declares, "the brigade brings together Cuban youths with a genuine interest in understanding the Cuban Revolution, coming in person to Cuba, and coming in direct contact with its reality.

"That experience," he continues, "has shown that there are youths who, first of all, want to participate in a contingent's activities, and on their return, decide whether or not to join the brigade."

He immediately states: "That shows that not all the members of a contingent are brigade members and that the organization of a trip to Cuba is not the only political objective of the brigade, but is one of the most important.

"There are three kinds of participation in the Antonio Maceo Brigade: sympathizers, candidates, and full members. In the first group are those who are participating in a contingent for the first time or are involved in the brigade's activities, but are not brigade members.

"Candidates are those who, after participating in a contingent, decide to join the brigade and go through a period of about 6 months during which the degree of the future brigade members' commitment and participation in the organization are evaluated. The local group, after a process of criticism and self-criticism, decides whether or not to make the candidates full members," Ricardo Fraga says in ending the first part of this interview.

[10 Jul 80, p 2]

[Text] The struggle against terrorism is one of the most important aspects of the Antonio Maceo Youth Brigade's political tasks in the Cuban community overseas, and Ricardo Fraga, member of the national committee of that brigade in the United States and Puerto Rico, talks about it.

"As everyone knows," Fraga says, "the Antonio Maceo Brigade has several times been the target of various terrorist groups, particularly Omega 7 and Comando O. For example, there was the assassination of Carlos Muniz in April 1979 in Puerto Rico, the placement of bombs among groups of brigade members, and constant threats against their leaders.

"Ever aware of the role we must play," he continues, "the Antonio Maceo Brigade has launched a campaign against terrorism within the Cuban overseas community and among the people of the countries where it is rooted, especially in the United States and Puerto Rico.

"The campaign has three aims," he explains. "The first is to unite all the institutions of the community that oppose these criminal acts. The immense majority of the Cuban people in those places favor dialog and maintaining their links with Cuba in peace and harmony, and therefore reject such acts of violence.

"The second aim is to make the people of North America and Puerto Rico aware that those terrorist acts also affect their own interests, causing casualties and property damage for those who are not the targets of those criminal acts.

"The third area they are working on," he notes, "is seeking the support of persons, institutions, groups, and organizations in these countries to press the authorities for a solution once and for all to this problem which affects everyone.

"There is now a massive campaign to send telegrams to the attorney general of the United States, Ben Civiletti, demanding that the authorities act

to arrest and try these criminals in accordance with the law," Fraga says.

And he concludes, "Terrorism in the Cuban overseas community has claimed two victims since 1979: Carlos Muniz, leader of our brigade, and Eulalio Jose Negrin, member of the Committee of 75. In addition, nearly 20 bombs have been placed and hundreds of threats have been made, among other acts of intimidation, without the authorities taking a stand consistent with their responsibilities."

[12 Jul 80, p 6]

[Text] When the generous and creative hand of man extends beyond his borders to aid others, to be useful and to work for everyone's happiness, solidarity becomes a powerful and indestructible force that unites peoples and builds everlasting works, however simple they may be.

This is what is happening at the Ariguanabo Textile Community. There, on a height beside the lake of the same name in Havana Province, men and women from different parts of the world, Scandinavians, North Americans, and Europeans among others, are turning into builders in a beautiful gesture of friendship with the revolution and our people.

For the last 10 years, the members of the Third Contingent of the Antonio Maceo Brigade have worked in this community. They have returned to their native land, which they never asked to leave, in order to see the reality of the revolution and through their work to make a modest contribution toward building the new society in the Fatherland of us all.

For the great majority, this experience was something like discovering new concepts of work, characterized by collectivism, conscientious productivity, and unlimited enthusiasm for feeling useful to society.

The four subbrigades are on the job from early in the morning, whether in prefabrication, building walls in building 9, sifting sand or mixing concrete... and from the first day there was determined emulation.

The youths' remarks about this work are very meaningful: "The most important thing is that for the first time I have felt useful and happy to help others"; another said, "I have a great feeling because now I am leaving in my Cuba a grain of sand in the work of the revolution"; a girl said, "These calluses on my hands that I am taking back to the United States will become a symbol of my people's work."

The superintendent of Architectural Projects Construction Enterprise No 5, in charge of housing construction there, said, "The young people work hard, they are very organized, and as Cubans, in the final analysis, they are very cheerful, communicative, and they have the spark."

The people's government delegate in the community said, "The 800 inhabitants of our community have a great deal of admiration for the youth of the Antonio Maceo Brigade, because of their work and the friendly relations we have had during every visit these past years; we feel as if they are part of this big family."

Their work there ends today; the Fourth Contingent will come next year to become a part of this beautiful tradition, continuing to build this workers' community that continues to grow through the effort of solidarity.

[18 Jul 80, p 2]

[Text] As the final item in this interview, we cannot omit the Antonio Maceo Brigade's stand "in the heart of the imperialist monster" during April and May of this year.

Speaking on the subject, Ricardo Fraga, member of the International Coordinating Committee of the Antonio Maceo Brigade, notes that, from the moment the situation in the Peruvian Embassy began, the brigade knew it was faced with a new anti-Cuban campaign intended to undermine the internal unity of the Cuban people and the international prestige of the revolution.

"Our organization," he said, "immediately announced its position, based on the responsibility of the United States and other governments that had a part in this anti-Cuban maneuver.

"We also feel that it is fair for all those who want to leave Cuba to do so, for as Fidel said, building socialism is a voluntary thing.

"Also," Fraga reaffirmed, "the United States is mostly responsible for this situation, and therefore, should assume that responsibility fully. The North American government is the direct source of the campaign of penetration, agitation, and aggression waged against Cuba for the past 21 years, and therefore it alone should reap the fruits of its policy without the aid of any other countries.

"Our position as members of the Cuban overseas community," Ricardo Fraga declares, "is that just as we support dialog and the exodus of the freed counterrevolutionary former convicts to the United States, which was prevented by the North American government, we also support entry into that country by those individuals who are now leaving Cuba.

"Reunifying families is also one of our priorities, and therefore we are willing to cooperate, as we have done, with any sincere, honest, and responsible effort to resolve entry into the United States and provide a minimum standard of living for these persons.

"Within the framework of our limited opportunities," he says, "we have tried to tell the truth about what happened in Cuba, although we have met with a nearly complete block by mass media in the United States.

"We witnessed one of the fiercest anti-Cuban campaigns launched in the United States in recent years, which was characterized by its size and sophisticated brutality," Ricardo Fraga says.

"For example, take the case of Puerto Rico, where a newspaper with one of the widest circulations on the island dedicated 21 pages to the Cuban situation, naturally distorting the truth. The series was interrupted for only one day to report Carter's disaster with the commando operation in Iran, but the next day the anti-Cuban campaign continued."

In conclusion, he declares, "We reaffirm our willingness to help all groups and institutions interested in learning about the Cuban reality, and thus present our opinions to be judged in comparison to what is offered by North American propaganda."

8587
CSO: 3010

'SECRETS' OF SOVIET COMMUNITY SUCCESS IN MOA NICKEL AREAS

Havana BOHEMIA in Spanish 27 Jun 80 pp 4-9

[Article by Alberto Pozo]

[Text] After accepting a toast to us at "El Balcon," the most prestigious restaurant-bar in Moa, we returned with our hosts and friends. Our comrades were already thinking of spending the coming evening at the domino table (that is one of the few ways they know to spend their free time).

Then we heard the sounds of people making an intense physical effort. We looked up and saw a basketball game going on between two teams of Soviet technicians, highly trained men who are helping us in the industrial development of our nation.

Are these young men? Not all of them, if we figure that youth ends at the age of 30. We would say that there are also mature men among them, of about 50 years of age (like our group of Cubans). Rivers of sweat running down his body, his years weighing down on him, Alexander Stotik moves across the court. He is the Party secretary in the Soviet group that is building the Punta Gorda nickel processing plant. He greets us with a smile, and continues with the struggle over the ball.

This apparently trivial scene causes our group to think of a series of considerations that spark an all-night debate. We have been impressed by Stotik, a man of our generation, running after the ball as if he were a boy. Well, we had lifted weights in our youth, and wanted to assuage our guilty conscience. We immediately went out and bought a chest-expander as soon as we got back to Havana. . . How difficult it is to exercise systematically with it!

The Soviet community in Moa is large. There are four groups: Those who work on the Punta Gorda construction project, those who lend technical assistance to Project 304 (the Punta Gorda investment unit), those who are remodeling the Moa factory, and those who are undertaking geological projects. In the future, in the short term, this large collective is sure to grow in size because the construction of another nickel plant is just around

the corner. It will be called CAME I, and will be located in Quemado del Negro, 7 kilometers from Punta Gorda on the road to Baracoa. The planned construction of a plant to separate the nickel combined with cobalt, has already been announced. That process will raise the price of each of those minerals on the world market.

In those "philosophical" disquisitions we laughed at our "old-timer" appearance as compared to Stotik and his comrades. (Now the reader will better understand our reason for running out to buy the chest-expander.) We also arrived at other conclusions, however. Of course there is increasing support for sports in Moa, but always oriented toward youths. No! We should all be participating, the way the Soviets do. Physical exercise prolongs youth.

Rest Actively

How have the Soviets arranged it so that they can engage systematically in sports in Moa? They themselves, through their own efforts, using the resources provided by nature, have built their own playing fields. The Soviets come to hold their Moa Olympiads, where the representatives of the four above-mentioned groups compete along with the crews of the ships anchored in the port. Furthermore, they customarily invite Cuban collectives to participate. They have built their own soccer field, as well as a volleyball court, and they utilize (as the Cubans could do) the existing sports facilities. They have also built a kiosk where they can play billiards and chess.

"The best way to rest is to rest actively," explains Stotik in one of our conversations with him. "When one rests well, one works better." We shall not forget that slogan: When one rests well, one works better!

This is the Soviet philosophy, and it explains why they use their free time so well. We are reminded of a conversation we had with Lino Chaviano, an engineer at the Moa factory, a Cuban who received his technical training in the USSR and was naturally influenced by that society:

"In our daily affairs, it is not good for the brain to rest in an idle way; it must rest by undertaking varied functions that will clear the mind from the hours of work, that will sever the bonds that tie it to traditional work and will compensate it with other activities."

The conversation moves on to an analysis of the integral behavior of the Soviet community. From the words we jump to the facts, and we arrive at the Cuban-Soviet Friendship Club. We confess, dear reader, that we were impressed still more by what we saw there.

Creative Abundance

The Club is an imitation of the typical indigenous structures, such as those found in Mayabe, Holguin or Rancho Luna in Wajay, Havana. How did they solve the problem of a roof, if in their country they have no real palms, and

therefore no experience in that kind of roofing? Very simply: They asked the Cubans to show them. And they learned! The project was under the direction of engineer Leonid Ruchko, who studied typical local structures (along with other technicians) in Holguin, Santiago and Granma. (We didn't ask him, but we are sure that he already has a notebook full of notes on the advantages and disadvantages with respect to climate, durability, aesthetics, etc. . .) And guano was gathered by the "Octobarists" (Pioneers in the third grade and below) and Pioneers. That was one more way in which they got to know the tropics and learned to utilize local resources.

The Soviets take advantage of all opportunities to come into contact with nature. It is a pleasure to see the caravans of families going out on Sundays to the nearby mountain to explore the territory and make new discoveries. They do not just stay in Moa. They go to Corinthya Beach, to the Pinares Meseta, to San Pedro del Mar. . . They walk as much as they can and explore everything. The tiniest detail does not escape their intellectual curiosity.

A friend tells us that on one occasion he was visiting the home of a comrade, and he noticed a beautiful snail on a ledge. It was part of a collection. Where did it come from, he asked. She collects them for aesthetic pleasure, period. He didn't know what to say. At that instant a Soviet comrade arrived on a visit. "That snail can be found on the banks of the Moa River," he said, giving them a dissertation on all the kinds of snails in the region. He also aroused their enthusiasm for malacology (the study of mollusks). The point is, their spiritual life explores all avenues; they live amid a creative abundance.

Environmental Resources and Work

Yes, this work has a great impact on us; it equals the standards of our best indigenous structures. But were the resources obtained by the Cuban Government? No, they went to the mountain to get them.

"We plan everything. Everything is provided for. We live, we work and we have fun," says the chief of cadres of the Soviet group and technical assistance adviser of the Integral Construction Enterprise No. 3, which is building the Punta Gorda plant. Above all, Alberto Gunderin speaks in his capacity as secretary of the union.

"Each year we make a plan in which we foresee all the activities of our community, whether they be ideological, political, cultural, sportive, or internationalist, and we carry them out faithfully."

"How do you get the necessary manpower?"

"Through volunteer labor. We organize as much as possible, so we won't waste time or human effort. For example, in order to build the Cuban-Soviet Friendship Club, we planned the manpower needed each day, about 3 hours; we agreed on who would do the work each day. . . and that is a question of honor.

Of course, everyone who wants to work on a given day can do so. And naturally we take advantage of the various specialties people have on the project we are working on. We were also helped by Cuban friends on the roof and the masonry."

We are talking with Alberto near the Club, and while he explains this to us a groups of Soviets is working on the access roads to the indigenous hut. At the entrance, we see a totem carved in the style of the Indians! This is the work of Soviet artists, who certainly delved into the history and customs of our aborigines and those of the Americas. We stress that this is not forced work; it is a spiritual expansion, the utilization of free time in one of many ways.

Collectivism and Sensitivity

In addition to the collective effort, using the resources provided by the environment and giving them priority over others as much as possible, there is a sense of permanence which characterizes socialist society: We are building for ourselves, for today, and for those who come later, for the future. Each of these people stays, on the average, for 2 years in Moa; so what they do is for themselves and for those who replace them.

"We have placed our main library in the school built for our children. Each specialist assigned to Moa brings some books to donate and to increase the library's funds," says Boris Salagedinov, a proletarian gentleman par excellence and a perfect, living example of the Formal Education Manual. He is a civil engineer who volunteered to help us as translator. In addition to his engineering degree, he has a university diploma in the Spanish language.

"Boris, have you been in Cuba long?"

"About 8 years, on different trips. . ." And we note the emotion in his facial expression:

"Back in Moscow, during one of my leaves, they called me to the Cuban Embassy and decorated me with the Medal of the 20th Anniversary of the Cuban Revolution. I am so proud!"

We are involved in watching a billiard game in which Palotor Prokodin, a welder at the Punta Gorda, is playing with Lev Anisimo, a welder at the diesel plant. It is not that we have mastered the game and can enjoy it, but we like observing the passion of the match (the specialist, Carion, explains that this is a variation of the game known as "pina"). Then the friendly Boris invites us to the Salon Lenin.

This is one of the microbrigade apartments turned over to the Soviets to make their stay in Cuba more pleasant. When we enter, we are greeted with another surprise: The walls of the room are covered in such a way to evoke the atmosphere of the typical wood structures of Russia.

"We achieved that effect by using the crates in which they pack the equipment brought by the ships for the Punta Gorda plant," Stotik tells us.

The moral: Sensitivity can transform crude raw materials (low quality wood) into a work of art.

The Salon Lenin provides a small corner for work, a silent, peaceful, isolated place for those who need to concentrate on some task. It is open from 1900 to 2200 hours. The beauty of the individual lamps and an intuitive curiosity draws us to them. Stotik clears up the mystery:

"The shade is an upside-down paper basket."

We think once more of the lesson we learned.

The Salon Lenin, when necessary, becomes a center of political activities. It was planned and built in 1979 as a tribute to the annual commemoration of Lenin.

Other surprises await us. At Las Coloradas, one of the two districts where the Soviet community is located, they are putting on a play and choral work. At the Club we are besieged with invitations to attend. The thing is, we went to see the performances, but we arrived late! Another problem was that they finished early in order not to miss a Soviet film that had been announced at one of the open-air cinemas. On the way back through Rolo, the other district where the community is located, we went to the main movie theater, which was built by the Soviets. It is a simple affair, with benches, a fibrous roof and the equipment, and capacity for 400 seats. It is a practical arrangement. The main idea is to enjoy the film. The theater is packed. We arrive at another area of Rolo, known as El Martillo, and there people are also enjoying an outdoor event.

We Feel Great!

The Soviets are very interested in having us visit their children's school, which goes from first to fifth grade. It is called "Vigesima Aniversari de la Victoria de la Revolucion Cubana" [20th Anniversary of the Victory of the Cuban Revolution].

"They built it in 2 months with the help of Cuban laborers, and the work is high quality," explains Stotik, "and we helped with volunteer labor."

We are introduced to the director, Comrade Ludmila Savchenko, the only teacher brought expressly for this task. The others are the wives of specialists, although they do have degrees in education.

"How do you feel in Cuba?" asks the director of the 132 children gathered at the entrance.

"Great!" they answer in unison.

How do these Soviet children spend their time after class? Their parents (and the other Soviet technicians), among the buildings designed for housing, have built them little children's parks.

"One day I was watching a Soviet who was building a little canal for a child. When I saw what tools he was using, I couldn't believe my eyes: He was using a hammer and saw from one of those toy tool kits for children. He spent days and days finishing the project, but he did it!" a Cuban friend told me admiringly.

While they explain how the school functions, we notice a curious detail: In the children's drawings the theme of Caribbean pirates is very prevalent. This fascination is also manifested in the manual work they do.

Classes take place in the morning hours. In the afternoon, they have interest groups: International Friendship Club, Young Naturalists (our snails interest them), Foreign Languages, Skillful Hands (once again we see the pirate theme), Dance and Puppets. Another afternoon attraction is sports: chess, athletics, table tennis and boxing.

This year they plan to finish another sports area in front of the school, for the children's enjoyment, and they also plan to put in a Turkish bath at the pool, for all the specialists.

Although Boris did not say so, we could see that the Cuban children from the areas surrounding the Soviet housing could also enjoy the children's parks.

Ready to Help

It is Sunday at 0730 sharp in the morning. We are at the departure point for the weekly excursion to Cayo Moa Beach. Watching the clock, the Soviets have formed a line. Right on schedule, the buses driven by Cubans arrive. Right on time, the expedition reaches the dock, and at 0800 sharp the barge is full and the tugboat casts off the lines. (The barge was rebuilt and remodeled recently by the Soviet technicians.)

About 40 minutes later, we enter through a canal built by Cubans, which practically divides Moa Key in half and facilitates access to the beach. We go along the canal. In the eyes of a man experienced with buckets, it just looks like 3½ kilometers of sand. The pine trees lend an exquisite shade. Evidence of man's presence is nowhere to be seen.

It is lunchtime, and Boris looks all over the beach for us. He insists with a politeness that is impossible to resist that we partake at the family table. It is spring in the Soviet Union, the time when they paint eggs different colors. They bring painted eggs to the picnic.

"Oh, how blue the sky, how clear the water! We are fascinated by Cuba's climate, its tropical colors, its permanently green trees, the brilliant sun," comments Boris.

"Isn't it too hot for you?"

"Moa is cooler than Havana, and much more so than Santiago. Here there are not more than 10 or 15 days a year when we feel the oppression of the heat. The children enjoy themselves very much here. They can always be out of doors. Sometimes back home they are so bundled up they look like slow moving puppets."

"It certainly does seem that the environment has its influence. We have seen them climbing up in the trees, having a wonderful time. They look like balls of red dust!"

"Sure, sure. . ."

"Aren't you affected by the heat?" we asked Boris' wife. She said in Russian, translated by Boris, even though I got the impression she understood our conversation:

"I am more acclimated to the heat even than Boris, because I worked in the United Arab Republic years ago, and also in Thailand."

Stotik's family, also sitting on its blanket on the grass, trades jokes and opinions with our group. They insist on inviting us over, so we have part of our lunch with them. We all gather together. A glass of liquor seals the occasion. Stotik tells us something that is very interesting to residents of Moa:

"We have prepared the facilities project in Moa Key so that everyone and his family can fully enjoy the beach. We have also drawn up plans for a highway to join the key with the mainland. There are places where the water is less than 50 centimeters deep. We are awaiting an answer so that we can lend our assistance."

(A few hundred meters away, one can see Burro Key, with an even better beach. Oriente, you are about to be discovered!)

At 1330 hours, as if obeying a bell that I did not hear (it's their spontaneous discipline), they begin picking up their things to return to the barge. Discipline and formal education!

Martin Olivero, the owner of the tugboat, is a bit concerned.

"What is going on?"

"One of my sailors has been left behind," and he honks frantically to call his attention. "If they come through, then we cannot stay behind. It is a question of honor."

The time of departure has been set at 1400 hours. Here comes the sailor, running. We leave on time.

Tomorrow will be Monday. They will return to work. Before the buses pick them up, we will see many of them running and doing morning exercises. There is no question of their productivity; that is no secret to anyone. We are reminded of Stotik's motto: "When one rests well, one works better," and its antecedent: "The best way to rest is to rest actively."

What are the secrets of the Soviet community?

--Organized, voluntary work in which people see the results of their efforts.
--Maximum utilization of resources available in the environment.
--Creative imagination as a function of a full spiritual and physical life.
--Maximum planning and programming of tasks.
--Organization of activities, and faithful completion.
--A deep sense of the collectivity of life.

PHOTO CAPTIONS

1. p 4. The best way to rest is to rest actively. When one rests well, one works better. . .

2. p 5. They are drawn to the theme of pirates. . . they are fascinated by snails and all of our marine life. . .

3. p 5. The Club is an imitation of the indigenous structures such as Mayabe, in Holguin.

4. p 6. We live, we work, we have fun. We plan everything. We are ready to help in the construction of the Moa Key facilities... . (They talk to us from the columns of the ammonia absorption plant in Punta Gorda.)

5. p 6. A group of Soviets works on the access roads to the indigenous-style hut of the Cuban-Soviet Friendship Club. . .

6. p 7. They are fascinated by our beaches, our sea, our sky, our pines, our nature. . .

7. p 7. They have built a kiosk where theyplay billiards and chess. The women prefer to chat while they take in the fresh air. . .

8. p 8. Leaving Moa Key. The barge in which they are riding was rebuilt and remodeled by the Soviet specialists. . .

9. p 9. We went through the main theater, built by them, with a capacity for 400 seats. . .

8926
CSO: 3010

FEMALE STREETCLEANERS MAKE UP MALE RELUCTANCE TO WORK

Havana MUJERES in Spanish Jun 80 pp 44-45

[Article by Marilys Suarez]

[Text] Every morning, they can be seen pushing their handcarts, headed in a specific direction. Their skillful feminine hands carefully sweep every block of the assigned section. From time to time, they stop to clean up branches or rubbish in the area.

Keeping our city clean and beautiful is the duty of all citizens and we are all happy to walk down the streets and see them free of garbage, in the best sanitary condition.

Numerous measures are being taken in order to maintain the city's hygienic, esthetic and environmental conditions. Of prime importance is the system of picking up household garbage and street cleaning, two activities that only months ago were marked by chaos.

At the present time, with the establishment of the new system of pickups using trucks and the recruitment of women to do manual sweeping in various districts of the capital, the situation has improved, but a great deal remains to be done.

There can be no doubt that if women had not been recruited months ago to do the street sweeping, the sanitary conditions and beauty of the Playa district, one of the finest in the capital, would have been greatly affected.

In this extreme situation, our comrades in the Municipal Directorate of Communal Services of the Playa district, specifically the Health Unit, undertook to increase the number of personnel.

Many men were interviewed. Not one agreed to do this type of work. Someone had the idea of recruiting women, who once again responded positively. In need of work, they were able to solve their economic problem, and at the same time, aware of the importance of the task, they accepted the new challenge.

In this way, the problem of the scarcity of male workers was solved by the free contracting of comrades between the ages of 18 and 30.

"There was a veritable avalanche," we were told by Erasmy Moynello Sandoval, municipal director of communal services. "In addition to the spontaneous response, we had the support of mass organizations which helped with the recruiting, a decisive factor due to the need to sweep the district manually.

"At the present time, the area that has to be swept amounts to 90 percent and only 60 percent is being covered. To the extent that there is an increase in personnel, the remaining areas will be swept."

Results

The results achieved so far are favorable. The productivity of our female comrades, while lower than that of the men on the average, is acceptable. Initially, they were given a norm of 10 blocks -- 100 meters is considered a block. Many are already sweeping an average of up to 11 or 14 blocks.

"This work does not require great talent, but it does take skill and training," says Abel Pinto Reyes, administrator of the Hygiene Unit. "They have lower productivity because it is physically tiring. The work is hard. But the quality of their work is better than that of the men. We could say that in a section cleaned by the women, the quality is noticeable immediately."

Claribel Rios and Ernestina Reyes are separated by some 35 years, and yet, they both do stupendously good work. When these notes were written -- at 1100 hours -- Ernestina had already swept 14 blocks of the assigned section. Claribel was filling out a form to notify authorities of a break in a septic tank.

"It is true that the work is somewhat hard for us," they said, "but we can do it. Furthermore, we are contributing to the cleanliness and beauty of the community."

The same opinion was expressed by Idania Perez, Lazara Lopez and Marina Perez, the latter a supervisor. Perez says she is very satisfied to see how her female comrades have taken up the work. "They clean sidewalks, gardens and the entire street in general. They do it with great efficiency and quality."

Initiative

The workers of the Hygiene Unit have adopted the initiative of the Municipal Beautification, Hygiene and Transit Committee of using the communal work force to notify the administration of abnormalities detected in their areas. For example, they have found problems of potholes, fallen trees, and so on, that were subsequently reported to the proper organizations for their solution.

According to Decree Law 27, penalties are provided with administrative fines for anyone violating public order, general safety, beauty, health or property. The communal services workers are in favor of being empowered to impose fines for violations of this decree.

According to Abel Pinto, the work they now do is preventive in nature. They give warnings when infractions are noted because such infractions not only run counter to the hygienic and environmental objectives of the city, but also affect the work of the sweepers.

One Opinion

Francisco Villadoniga Barro, secretary general of the Trade Union Section, is categorical in asserting: "The incorporation of women into this type of work has been very advantageous. We have the highest opinion of the work they do.

"I recall that when Hurricane Frederick struck, they would arrive at five o'clock in the morning at the center and did not go home until after eleven o'clock at night. Once their work was done, they would get in the trucks to pick up garbage, trim trees, or whatever was necessary."

11,464
CSO: 3010

'MUJERES' INTERVIEWS IRAQI WOMEN'S FEDERATION PRESIDENT

Havana MUJERES in Spanish Jun 80 pp 76-77

[Interview with Manal Younes, president of the General Federation of Women of Iraq, at the Federation headquarters, by Daisy Martin; date not given]

[Text] We visited the headquarters of the General Federation of Women of Iraq for the purpose of interviewing its president, Manal Younes, and learning details of work done by the women's organization she heads and the results of the Ninth Conference, which had concluded the preceding day and which was attended by a Cuban delegation.

Despite the natural fatigue resulting from having spent several days presiding over the intensive work of the conclave meeting from 11 to 15 March and attended by over 600 women from Iraq and 66 other countries, Manal Younes immediately responded to our request and added that there could not have been a better time since precisely that morning, the comrades who would take over the different national offices of the organization had been elected.

"It is a day of celebration for us and the proper time to share it with our Cuban comrades," she told us in her friendly way. We immediately turned to the topic of the selection of her country's delegates to the Conference.

She explained that the organization is structured into a Central Council at the national level, with its Executive Office, the branch councils at the provincial level, which include several sections, the central committees, similar to the blocks of the Federation of Cuban Women, and the rank-and-file committees.

"The delegates began to be elected by the rank and file. They were confirmed by the next highest level, until we reached the national level. At each level, a small congress was held in order to gather experiences and opinions that were then taken to the conference.

"The 18 branches of the country were represented at this meeting, which had as one of its most positive results the approval of the creation of delegations among the rank and file, taking work plans to all women," she told us.

She added that this was an experience she gathered from her recent trip to Cuba and that will immediately be applied in her country, concluding in 1982.

"We are sure that like you, we shall have magnificent results. Our effort is mainly aimed at women living in rural areas. Some 60 percent of our activities will be aimed at such women.

"Our Federation now has 188,000 members who head and participate in the work programs guided by the 17 fronts of the Secretariat. In 1979, over 9 million women participated in activities organized by our Union. Only today we chose the comrades to make up the Executive Office or Secretariat."

At the precise moment she was giving us this explanation, we could hear, outside the little room in which the interview was being conducted, songs sung by groups of women. Smiling faces appeared at the door and after apologizing, one of them asked Manal to come out into the hall. They had come to congratulate her for being reelected president of her country's women's organization and for the selection of the new Executive Office.

Manal Younes invited us to participate in the spur-of-the-moment party and very quickly, she was surrounded by comrades singing revolutionary songs and slogans. In the midst of embraces, words of congratulations and a shower of caramels -- a deep-rooted customs in Iraq to celebrate events of great joy -- we shared a moment with Federation members from the different districts of Baghdad who had come to demonstrate to their leaders their joy over the election.

After the brief interlude of healthy camaraderie was over, the guests withdrew and we continued the interview.

We asked the women's leader about the activities headed by her organization.

"They range from advice for the family and childcare to cultural and recreational activities.

"In every unit, the name given to the Federation's centers, we have a place where women can go to paint and do different types of manual work.

"We have obtained good results. Their works are included in exhibitions and their paintings are often published in our journal or reproduced as posters."

She adds that all over the country, there are 320 choirs and folk dance groups made up of girls and young women. This makes it possible to incorporate the youngest girls into the different manifestations of art. There are also groups organized for the different sports.

"In our society, sports are now a daily duty," Manal says, and in order to support her statement, she tells us that a marathon was recently held in

which over 200 housewives participated. They followed a route previously laid out in the city of Baghdad.

"Previously, women could not do this. We have now managed to gain the voluntary participation of 200 women.

"Women belonging to the Iraqi Federation also helped with the literacy campaign waged in the country, as well as with plans to vaccinate the population, especially children. In addition, camps have been set up in the provinces in order to provide military training, which now involves a high number of women.

"The Federation has organized schools for training in different techniques, such as electricity, carpentry, mechanical drawing and other trades which in a short period of time enable them to accept different jobs. The Federation pays particular attention to the 46 day-care centers set up throughout the country.

"One of the latest plans we have initiated is directly aimed at the family," the women's leader says. She adds: "We have seen that our interest must not only be directed toward the woman, but also to the aspects of health, diet, hygiene."

We observed that the cost of all the activities provided must be high and she told us:

"That is true, but the government allocates funds every year to cover the expenses, including those for the child-care centers. For 1980, we have $33 million to be invested, 93 percent for the branches or provinces and the rest for the Executive Office.

"The government, President Saddam Hussein and the party pay great attention to our organization. We have their support at all times. They are aware that women's work is important in society and they encourage it."

Considering that our visit was growing longer, we apologized for having taken her time, precisely on a day such as today. But as pleasant as ever and with a ready smile, she was quite willing to continue our talk.

On bidding us farewell, she detained us a few more minutes saying that she wanted to send greetings to Fidel Castro and Vilma Espin.

"Extend to them my best wishes for their good health and our thanks for the friendly relations uniting our peoples and our organizations. Fidel is a beloved comrade and a friend of Iraq," she emphasized, and added:

"I do not want to miss this opportunity to send greetings to comrade Juan Almeida as well, for he was very kind to us during our visit to Cuba. I want him to know that we can still hear his lovely songs and hope that he will dedicate one to the Iraqi woman."

With these words, our interview with the distinguished women's leader came to a close. Even at a distance, we could still see her waving a friendly goodby.

11,464
CSO: 3010

POOR SUGAR HARVESTS, LIVING CONDITIONS IN LAS TUNAS PROVINCE

Havana BOHEMIA in Spanish 27 Jun 80 pp 16-23

[Article by Andres Rodriguez: "What Is Happening in Las Tunas?"]

> [Text] Between 1970 and 1979, almost 28 million pesos were invested in only three Las Tunas sugar mills: Argelia Libre, 11,408,197 pesos; Peru, 10,000,667 pesos; and Amancio Rodriguez, 6,209,666 pesos. Nevertheless, those mills have not responded satisfactorily. Why?

Six Paragraphs of Introduction

What is happening in Las Tunas Province?

Why have its sugar harvests been prolonged for the last few years in unfruitful attempts to fulfill its sugar production quotas?

Why has it been the slowest province in the development of the 1980 sugar harvest?

In order to give a concrete answer to this situation, BOHEMIA ECONOMICA went to the land of the patriot Vicente Garcia to visit the six municipalities where the six sugar enterprises and six cane enterprises are based in that eastern province of Cuba. We had the valuable cooperation of the Las Tunas people, beginning with the provincial party committee.

The result of that tour is the article that we present now to the reader. It should be noted at the beginning that this does not pretend to be a complete report. Perhaps it needs other contributions to complement it. However, the intention was valid and here is its materialization. It is not superfluous to stress that Las Tunas is a province with significant cane potential.

It should also be noted that this attempted answer is not limited only to the technological or productive problems of the sugar harvest. It also

focuses on the social situation. As is known, the social problems have repercussions on production and productivity and, therefore, on the economy. The sugar harvest is the principal economic task of the country.

We Need One Like That!

Jose Campos, assistant director of economy of MINAZ [Ministry of the Sugar Industry] in Las Tunas and our punctual and fraternal guide, took us in his car from the town of Amancio Rodriguez where we had just completed our tour of all the sugar-producing towns in that province. It was nighttime already as we drove down the Central Highway to our destination: the city of Las Tunas. It was necessary to cross through Camaguey Province, including the urban area of the town of Guaimaro. When we left it, we could see a lot of light on a small hill. It was the Hotel Guaimaro, a magnificent building with a swimming pool which was constructed a few years ago in the outskirts of that urban area.

"Good hotel, eh? We need one like that!" commented Campos.

The comment was made by someone who wants something that is necessary, although without any bitterness or weakness. The day before, Campos himself --who is a native of the Las Tunas town of Colombia--made another comment to us:

"The city of Las Tunas itself did not have an aqueduct 10 years ago and the people had to buy water."

Since we were going to the town of Manati on the northern coast that day, he continued as follows:

"Until a short while ago, it was necessary to be very patient to make this trip to Manati. Now we have a highway."

We do not want to present Campos as a representative sample of Las Tunas sentiment. We are only reflecting with complete faithfulness the thoughts of one Las Tunas native about certain aspects of the situation in his province as an example.

His comments permitted us to study a natural phenomenon in every development process. Things have been done, but there is still much to do.

His comments also permitted us to understand the importance of the social situation. Without wanting to get into a theoretical discourse, it is an obvious truth that socialism is the first phase of a /socioeconomic formation/ [in boldface] (the emphasis is ours) which is communism. In our country, we are constructing socialism.

From the point of view of sugar production, especially concerning industrial efficiency, Las Tunas Province has little to envy. Its grinding mills are

powerful but are distinguished by their high sugar losses. The mills have not responded satisfactorily to the large investments made in the last decade. For example, in 1976 alone, 12 million pesos were invested in them, practically the same amount that was invested in the former province of Oriente before it was divided into the five present provinces. The consumption of additional fuel is so bad that the Jesus Menendez enterprise consumed its allocation of oil for 150 days of harvest in 60 days this year.

This is, in general, the sugar situation. At first glance, it does not look promising.

It would be appropriate to go now to the specific examination of the basic agroindustrial problems in the six Las Tunas enterprises.

One by One

Argelia Libre--We feel this Las Tunas mill has the most serious operational problems which make it the most inefficient because of its high sugar losses throughout the industrial process. Although a large oil consumer, it does not have enough bagasse even though it grinds its quota. It also seems to have a serious problem in the skill and demand of its shift chiefs.

From the agricultural point of view, there is a difficult situation in the plantations. The prolongation of the previous harvest, with its sequel of high grass and little cultivation, has decreased cane production.

Antonio Guiteras--Technologically, it is the most powerful mill in Las Tunas but that power does not correspond to its industrial efficiency. For example, in spite of having two good grinding mills, its sugar losses are still significant. Its agriculture provides enough cane although its agricultural yields do not surpass 52,000 arrobas per caballeria.

Amancio Rodriguez--It is another of the critical enterprises in efficiency, a situation that has existed for several years. Everything indicates that its main problem is in the grinding mill where there is an acute shortage of skilled personnel. Nevertheless, there is a much better situation in the agricultural field than in the remaining Las Tunas enterprises since its agricultural yield is almost 75,000 arrobas per caballeria, an average that is 19,000 arrobas per caballeria higher than its closest competitor.

Certainly that advantageous situation is influenced by its high volume of long-cycle cane, especially "Quedada" and "Requedada" (about 57 percent of the area harvested). However, it should be recognized that other types like sprouts do better than their counterparts.

Nevertheless, this year agriculture has been significantly affected by the low productivity of mechanized cutting due to its explosive growth compared to the previous year.

Peru--This is a mill with problems in oil consumption and efficiency. This year it followed in the footsteps of Argelia Libre as to high sugar losses. It also follows it in agriculture since its yield is one of the lowest in the province with less than 50,000 arrobas per caballeria.

Jesus Menendez--Industrially it faces three main problems: inconsistent efficiency, high oil consumption and locomotive breakdowns. In spite of this, it is the mill with the highest recovery in the province at 84.72, slightly higher than the national average for the long 1979 sugar harvest. Its agriculture is the second best in the province in yield (56,000 arrobas per caballeria) in spite of having the lowest amount of long-cycle cane--that is, "Quedada" and "Fria."

Colombia--This has traditionally been the least problematic mill in Las Tunas and also the one that has received the lowest investment (less than 2 million pesos in 10 years). It is persistent in the consumption of additional fuel and, in that sense, is a concrete negation of many energy hypotheses.

Actually, Colombia is one of the Las Tunas mills with greatest skill in technical management and one of the few, almost the only one, that has systematically met its sugar production quota. Nevertheless, its recovery has decreased almost two digits compared to the previous harvest.

Agriculturally, there have been problems in harvesting since, out of the 17 combines planned initially, it only could assimilate 8 since it did not have enough mechanizable area to use that many combines.

Continuing this purely productive focus, we want now to point out some considerations.

Considerations About the Las Tunas Sugar Harvest

Years ago, Las Tunas showed excessive dependence on the forces of the EJT [Youth Labor Army] to harvest its cane. It was its intention to undertake decisive economic activity through the use of its own forces for cutting and operating combines. At one time, five of the six Las Tunas mills used the EJT but that participation was reduced to two: Colombia and Amancio Rodriguez in the southern zone.

It was an achievement of the province to systematize and stabilize the incorporation of its usual cutters in the cane harvest and introduce them slowly to that unquestionable source of productivity: the million-arroba movement. I remember one visit we made to the province at the end of April 1977. They had 45 brigades of million-arroba cutters compared to 29 in the 1976 harvest. They also had 15 10-million-arroba cutters compared to 5 in the preceding campaign.

The province has also grown progressively in cane supply and, consequently, has increased its volumes of ground cane in the recent harvests. Here is a clear example.

Harvest	Ground Cane (millions of arrobas)
1976	348,880,000
1977	427,318,000
1978	551,579,000
1979	564,786,000

Between 1976 and 1979--that is, in only 4 years--Las Tunas increased its grinding by almost 216,000,000 arrobas, an amount only surpassed in that same period by the provinces of Matanzas, Camaguey and Holguin.

However, Las Tunas also ground a similar volume of cane without high and stable exploitation of its strong industrial capacities because of the general and specific problems mentioned above. Thus its harvests were also progressively prolonged with costly consequences. One example is the fact that the past harvest ended with one of the highest consumptions of cane per ton of sugar produced. It took more than 10 tons of cane to produce 1 ton of sugar.

It can be stated that the industry, in recent years, has been mainly responsible for the problems noted. How is it possible, it could be asked, if that industry has been the recipient of many large investments? In Argelia Libre alone, for example, more than 11 million pesos were invested in the 1970's, an average of more than 1 million pesos per year.

A truism is in order here. The most advanced equipment cannot solve a problem without the indispensable material infrastructure that sustains it and without the skilled labor to operate it efficiently.

While modern centrifuges, powerful boilers and powerful electric grinders were installed in the mills, skilled labor progressively left those same mills for different reasons: retirement, transfer, resignation.

Between 1970 and 1979, there were 1,450 departures in the Amancio Rodriguez sugar enterprise of which 535 were skilled workers; within this group, 478 were youths from 18 to 27. In that same period, that enterprise only received 101 skilled workers.

In 5 years, from 1975 to 1979, the Jesus Menendez sugar enterprise lost 227 skilled workers for different reasons while it received 62 skilled workers.

During the visit to the Antonio Guiteras enterprise (it and Colombia are the only Las Tunas enterprises that have sufficient technical skill) we became interested in the Bouza case. He was a young chemical engineer who, with his girlfriend who had a degree in biochemistry, repeatedly requested their transfer from that mill.

Why that insistence? Obviously because Bouza lived with his girlfriend under difficult conditions while her parents had good housing in another province. Logically, the thing to do was to transfer there where there are mills that need technicians.

We do not know how the case of Bouza and his girlfriend ended. We bring it up as an example of the influence of social conditions on the stability of the work force, of the necessary socioeconomic interrelationship in the building of the technical-material base of socialism, a task to which our entire country is pledged at this time.

It seems appropriate at this point to make some evaluations of the social aspects and their influence on the Las Tunas problem.

We have taken two towns in the province as concrete examples: one in the northern zone (Manati); and the other in the south (Amancio Rodriguez). Both border Camaguey Province.

Amancio's Recovery

In the not too distant past, the town of Amancio Rodriguez was named Macondo, a legendary name taken from the literature of Colombian Garcia Marquez. The name corresponded with objective reality, not literary fantasy.

Some years have passed. Does this town continue to be a Macondian phenomenon?

We do not think so. More precisely, we have not seen this.

First of all, our visit to the obelisk that guards the remains of Amancio Rodriguez and Oviedo Chacon impressed us. Both labor leaders, communist party members, died here fighting for the future that we have today. Their names are venerated so that no one, either young or old, calls the mill by its old name, Francisco. Everyone calls it Amancio.

Then we visited some places that are beginning to give the town a new look.

We saw things built or reconstructed recently: the Guacanayabo night club, the Poli esio Restaurant, the sports gymnasium, the commercial center, the pizzeria and the house of culture.

We saw things that are being built: the modern telephone center, the general polyclinic, the bus terminal and the lovely Los Pinos recreation center which will have a night club, restaurant, cabins and a suspension bridge over the Sevilla River.

The most important thing is that the growing exodus recorded in the town in the 5-year period 1970-1975 has slowed down.

In 1970, Amancio had 39,000 inhabitants. That population decreased to 36,562 5 years later. Now, in 1979, there are 39,550 people.

What caused that growing exodus? It was simply the socioeconomic conditions prevailing in the town then in contrast with the expansion that took place in the nearby province of Camaguey which it is necessary to cross to reach Amancio.

That situation obviously affected the main industry of the town--Amancio Rodriguez sugar enterprise--in which more than 6 million pesos were invested for new equipment. Its grinding mill, as said before, suffers from an acute shortage of skilled manpower and instability in its staff which explain its high sugar losses and frequent breakdowns and interruptions in operations. They do not let the mill grind stably.

That situation still exists. One reason is because the lost skilled manpower has not been recovered and, secondly, because although social conditions have improved, certain problems that are becoming urgent like housing persist.

This continues to be a very critical problem since the housing that has been constructed recently is still insufficient. Also the most urgent thing is not the construction itself but the repair and maintenance of existing housing. There are many problems with roofs of special tiles.

The president of the municipal people's government explained to us: "This creates contradictions. Right now we are building a magnificent polyclinic that will solve an important public health problem for us. At the same time, that polyclinic means 33 new medical jobs and we lack housing for that personnel."

They told us: "A boiler mechanic in the mill is offered that same job in the new Camaguey Batallo de las Guasimas complex with the right to a brand-new apartment in the community that has been built next to the complex."

Most Critical Mill and Most Critical Town Coincidence?

If, in the midst of the problems, Amancio improves and another town like Jobabo begins to change its looks, this is not exactly the impression that MManati in the northern zone leaves.

Argelia Libre which today is the most critical sugar enterprise in the province is there. Of course, we are not going to repeat its problems which were already enumerated before but the apparently coincidental fact that the most critical mill is based in the town where the gamut of problems is greatest must be considered.

We can categorically state the above after having a profitable talk with the young vice president of the people's government, particularly after

comparing our visit to this Las Tunas town with those to the remaining towns in the province.

In Manati there are certain signs of regression and we are not referring to the general problem of housing but to other aspects.

The town had 22 centers or areas devoted to recreation and restaurants in 1965. Fourteen years later, in 1979, that number had gone down to 14.

Concerning transportation, although the bus pool has been improved and reinforced, the passenger railway--the principal means of transportation--is so deteriorated that its existence is threatened. For detailed information on this, the reader should read the section called "Notice: Coaches are requested for the Manati passenger railway."

What is most noticeable is the population exodus that is slowly occurring. We can see the number of inhabitants in the town in the last 3 years: 1977--34,177; 1978--34,095; and 1979--33,866.

Between 1964 and 1979, 10 complete sugar mill compounds with approximately 161 housing units disappeared from the town map because their residents transferred to the neighboring province of Camaguey.

What were they seeking?

They were seeking better job offers and better living conditions.

The entire western border of Manati lies in Camaguey. Very close to that border a development zone called Camalote started several years ago. It is a community that has attractive social conditions. Next to it, Manati offers a dense cane clump. It can be assumed that most of the compounds which disappeared showed up in Camalote.

As we left this town, two visitors arrived. They were two sugar specialists who came from other provinces to reinforce the technical personnel of the Argelia Libre enterprise.

The director of the enterprise, who is almost new in his job, told us: "They come for 1 year."

"Wouldn't it be better if they came permanently? We think that it will be very difficult for you to stabilize their work if the personnel is not stabilized, especially the skilled personnel," we suggested.

The director agreed but also shrugged his shoulders. The suggestion was very obvious but the solution did not depend entirely on him.

Motion: Coaches Are requested for Manati Passenger Railway

The principal means of transportation in Manati is a passenger railroad that has been steadily deteriorating. Below are excerpts from a report given to the municipal people's government by Jorge Cambas, assistant director of transportation of the Argelia Libre complex. He is in charge of operating that railway service for the people.

"This public service railroad is in constant decline. That has irritated our people and the workers of the railroad itself who see that while bus and railroad transportation of passengers maintains and improves its conditions under socialism, the almost sexagenarian Tunas-Manati railroad steadily worsens.

"I feel that this is due to one single thing. The principal task of the Ministry of the Sugar Industry is sugar production. While innumerable investments are made to improve the sugar complexes, there is not even a minute of concern for passenger transportation.

"In my 3 years as assistant director of transportation for this enterprise, I have not participated in any meeting or management council to discuss the problems of passenger transportation from Manati to Tunas. There has not been any inspection of our passenger transportation by the technicians of the province or the ministry. We are not asked how it is going or what problems we have. If we bring them up, our concerns fall in the basket for unimportant matters.

"To give an example, in our own complex the centrifuges have been changed three times...but in the passenger trains, we do not even get the vinyl we asked for in the supply model 710's to improve the seats.

"I feel that if our superior administrative organizations are not urgently interested in all the changes that it is necessary to make in the passenger trains--not putting bandages on but making radical cures to kill the disease--the almost sexagenarian Manati railroad will no longer exist within a year."

7717
CSO: 3000

BRIEFS

RELATIONS WITH SDAR--Georgetown, (CANA)--Guyana will shortly establish diplomatic relations with Saharawi, formally Western Sahara, it was officially announced here. This announcement came last night at the end of a 4-day visit to Guyana by the Arab Republic's information minister, Mr Ould Salek. [Excerpt] [FL061010 Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 1 Aug 80 p 3 FL]

CSO: 4020

ORTEGA INTERVIEWED ON COUNTRY'S ACHIEVEMENTS

Algiers EL DJEICH in French May 80, No 204 pp 34-35

[Interview with Humburto Ortega, commander in chief of the ANP [People's National Army], defense minister and member of the National Directorate of the Sandinist National Liberation Front, by A. Siouda and A. Anser--date and place not given]

[Text] Relaxed, smiling and affable Humberto Ortega, member of the National Directorate of the Sandinist National Liberation Front, commander in chief of the ANP, and minister of national defense, responded at length to our questions. He was accompanied by Hugo Torres and Commander Leopold Rivas, respectively vice minister of the interior and member of the general staff.

[Question] Mr Minister, the magazine EL DJEICH, the organ of the ANP has the honor of meeting you and asking you a few questions on the triumphal march of your revolutionary country, Nicaragua, toward the construction of a free, independent, and just society.

Mr Minister, your revolution is certainly facing great inherent difficulties in the war imposed by imperialism and its valet Somoza on the people of Nicaragua. What are the steps which you plan on taking over the short term to put an end to this situation on the one hand, and on the other hand what are the main lines of your program in the economic and social sphere over the long term?

[Answer] For us it is a pleasure and a duty to reply to the magazine EL DJEICH.

First of all we have the pleasure of transmitting a fraternal and warm greeting from the avant-garde of the Sandinist Revolution and from the whole Nicaraguan people to the whole Algerian people, to the brave soldiers of the ANP, and to their revolutionary leadership.

We are in the process of making great efforts to master the foundations which will enable us over the short term to solve the economic and social problems. This action aims at restructuring the national and social program for which our Sandinist revolution has always worked.

There is a continuity of the national struggle with the international struggle, a struggle for which the whole people and Nicaragua rose up.

To do this we must solve problems inherent in the more than 50 years of exploitation and oppression which imperialism and reaction imposed until the day when our revolution triumphed in 1979. This is due particularly to the fact that the 50 years of imperialist domination have left deep marks on our country economically and socially. From another angle the war against "Somozism" was seized as a pretext by the dictator to destroy everything.

This is why we have worked up an immediate program of an urgent nature. It is a program of national reconstruction the most immediate goals of of which are the urgent reactivation of the economic and social structures.

From the first steps the people responded with great enthusiasm. The example of the literacy campaign was instructive in this connection. It integrates Nicaraguan youth both in the towns and in the countryside in a basic revolutionary work.

This program also has the objective of "bringing" health into places from which it was absent either by provision of care or by health education.

Out of 300,000 people made unemployed by the Somoza dictatorship, we have been able to provide jobs to 80,000. But there is much left to do, because our country is very rich. What is lacking is a solid infrastructure to be able to exploit these riches to the maximum.

What concerns us in the immediate future are the more urgent problems: especially health, education, housing, and food.

We have counted on the support of the democratic forces of the peoples of the whole world. That these forces continue to help would only be normal, especially since we have had some 50,000 dead.

It will be the same for the struggle conducted by the peoples of Latin America. They will succeed in conquering reaction and imperialism which are trying to stifle the revolution which is being born. These reactionary forces are opposed to the vote of Congress for aid to Nicaragua. The United States is unhappy because it has always dominated our country. As for our country, it has always defended its independence and has always had the motto: "Live free or die."

Like the Algerian people, we will continue to conduct this struggle for progress, revolution, and peace".

[Question] Mr Minister, the Sandinist Revolution was the joint accomplishment of the revolutionary peasants, workers, and intellectuals under the leadership of the Sandinist Front against the reactionary torturing regime of Somoza and his valets. The Sandinist government will doubtless respond in its political program to the aspirations of the peasants and workers.

What are the main lines of the agrarian and industrial policy of the country, and how do you conceive the participation of these masses in the management of the economic and political institutions of the country?

[Answer] The triumph of the Nicaraguan Revolution was basically the work of the progressive and revolutionary workers, peasants, and intellectuals.

Our program is precisely representative of these sectors, which have been the most affected by the US domination. It is these revolutionary workers, peasants, and intellectuals who now work the most on the program which will enable us to arrive at a developed society, a development in which we see the solution of the problems which our country is witnessing. This will be the society of free men for which Agusto Cesar Sandino struggled and died.

Although our revolution triumphed hardly a year ago, the peasants are engaged in concretizing their aspirations through the agrarian reform.

As for the workers, they are organized in the Sandinist Center in order to place themselves in the advanced guard of the struggle which our country is conducting.

Little by little our people is in the process of perfecting an anti-oligarchic program for a society of working people."

[Question] Mr Minister, illiteracy reached a very high level under the regime of Somoza. The revolutionary Sandinist government is doubtless going to undertake a vast literacy policy. What are the guidelines for the policy of education in your country?

[Answer] The illiteracy campaign--"the great crossing" as we call it--was launched on 23 March 1980. Its goals are to eliminate totally obscurantism and bring back to our people its flouted humality and dignity. To teach it not only to read but to cultivate within it a Sandinist and anti-imperialist political conscience. This campaign is already well advanced in the army and it is currently aiming at the larger component of the people, namely the peasants and workers.

[Question] Imperialism and reaction are not going to disarm and are going to try to do everything to stifle the Sandinist revolution. How do you count on arresting the course of this danger? And what are the guiding lines of the foreign policy of your country?

[Answer] We are still being subjected to North American pressures and more particularly those of Nicaraguan reaction. Our main strength resides in the unity of all the political and social sectors of the country, particularly revolutionary peasants, workers, and intellectuals around the FSLN [The Sandinist Front for National Liberation].

This unity of the people is in the image of all the progressive and anti-imperialist peoples which supported the just cause of Nicaragua.

Our foreign policy is progressive and, anti-imperialist and emphatically rejects the armaments race, exploitation, and the international trusts. This is the struggle of our people. Our foreign policy is within the framework of nonalinement and is reflected in support for all peoples struggling against oppression and exploitation.

[Question] The Sandinist Revolution has had many echoes throughout the world. Are there links between it and what is happening in El Salvador and many other Latin-American countries?

[Answer] The situation prevailing in El Salvador is a special situation which is characterized by intense struggles against the system of exploitation and against the dictatorial power of the junta. The triumph of the Sandinist revolution has stimulated the democratic and revolutionary Salvadorian forces in their struggle, because it is the same type of dictatorship which existed in Nicaragua, and it is American imperialism which is behind the oppressors.

There is therefore a link of moral identification, from which derives a common struggle of the small peoples against the domination of American imperialism. Of course the battle is hard and difficult, but with the union and help of the other countries of the world, in the image of Algeria, which maintains a clear position with regard to the countries struggling for their independence, the outcome can only be victory and emancipation.

[Question] Mr Minister, would you like to speak to us a little about the organization of the new army of revolutionary Nicaragua?

[Answer] Our army relies on the participation of the revolutionary peasants and intellectuals for it is they who founded it.

Our people, which has been struggling for years and years, is anxious to maintain a high Sandinist anti-imperialist awareness within our army. Our country is preparing to develop a people's morale which will be a solid and sure wall in the face of counterrevolution.

In addition to the army, we are in the process of improving the degree of combativity of all Nicaraguans by organizing people's militia so as to stop any action of the enemies of the revolution.

[Answer] The purpose of our visit is first of all to strengthen the links which have already existed for some time between our two peoples which are struggling for the same cause.

Our fighters have acquired knowledge with the struggle of the Algerian people and this experience stimulated us as we were stimulated by the determination and the implacable struggle led by the deceased President Houari Boumediene against imperialism, reaction, and underdevelopment.

Today, in this land where died the noble sons of Algeria, we are eager to salute President Chadli Bendjedid, his ministers and the whole Algerian people.

We hope to strengthen the existing links between our two peoples so as to continue to forge still further the anti-imperialist struggle. The peoples of Algeria and Nicaragua will continue to struggle always against the illusions of imperialism, following the model of the Algerians against neocolonialism and its attempts to reintroduce itself.

Algeria reflects the cause of the Arab peoples which we make our own, especially the anti-Zionist struggle at the side of the Palestinian people.

As we equally make our own the anti-reactionary and anti-obscurantist and of the POLISARIO Front.

The same as we make our own struggle that of the African peoples against racism, apartheid, and imperialism."

6108
CSO: 3100

BRIEFS

POPULATION GROWTH--Paramaribo, (CANA)--Suriname's population has risen by about 60,000 in the last 10 years, according to preliminary figures from this year's census. [Text] [Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 1 Aug 80 p 3 FL]

CSO: 3020

END

END OF FICHE DATE FILMED

Sept 5-80

GD